

Riots- 1927

Colorado.

**ROCKY MT. NEWS**  
DENVER, COLO.

DEC 13 1927

# NINE NEGRO STUDENTS ARRESTED AFTER RACE WAR WITH WHITES

## Police Halt Riot of Youths of Manual Training and Cole Junior Schools

**A**FTER a general fist fight between white and Negro students of Manual Training High school and Cole Junior High school, on the grounds of the former, nine Negro youths were arrested yesterday afternoon.

A police detail from the 38th st. police substation, an auto load of patrolmen from the auto theft department, and other officers were required to quiet the disturbance.

The disturbance was the outgrowth of feeling which has existed between students of the two races for some time, police said.

Charles A. Bradley, principal of Manual Training High school, declined to discuss the disturbance and referred inquirers to James H. Steele, assistant principal. Steele said he was not at the school when the disturbance occurred and knew nothing of it.

H. Heckley, 16, of 1034 E. 24th ave., was held for investigation.

The following were arrested on charges of disturbance:

W. D. Johnson, 16, of 2455 Glenarm pl.; Albion Miller, 16, of 2357 Gilpin st.; J. A. Dorsey, 16, of 1529 E. 22nd ave.; Ebron Frost, 16, of 1521 E. 22nd ave.; George Mayo, 16, of 1715 E. 25th ave.; Robert Williams, 16, of 1608 E. 25th ave.; Roy Solomon, 16, of 2226 Humboldt st., and Francis Payne, 16, 2251 Lafayette st.



Riots-1927.

D.C.

# SHOT IN RACE RIOT; VICTIM DIES SUDDENLY

**George Dent Was Figure in  
Race Riots in July, 1919.  
Survived Six Wounds.**

George Dent, 40 years old, who was riddled with bullets by the late Detective Arthur B. Scrivener during the race riots here in July, 1919, and who survived to defeat a case of assault in which he was defendant, as a result of that fight, died early today at Emergency Hospital from an undetermined cause after a brief illness which affected him yesterday.

Friends and relatives of Dent, at his home, 1101 Nineteenth street, believe that the six wounds he sustained on the rear of a street car at Seventh and G streets, when Scrivener clambered over the rear platform and fired point blank into him were the real cause of his death. An autopsy is being conducted by Dr. Lester Newman at Emergency Hospital today to attempt to ascertain the cause of death.

The brother and sister of Dent declare that he had never been "ailing" before the time of the shooting in 1919, whereas since that time he had periodically suffered from sick spells.

Dent has been a figure in the third precinct ever since the race riot days. His left cheek bore a large scar from one bullet wound. It was expected at the time of the shooting that he could not survive the effects of the wounds, which penetrated his upper body and abdomen as well as his legs and head, but some two months after the riots he had recovered sufficiently to be arraigned in court and to defeat the charge of assault lodged against him.

## CAPITAL POLICE QUELL RACE RIOT

Washington, March 28.—(United News.)—Police reserves were called out tonight to quell a race riot in which more than 12 persons were injured, none seriously.

A crowd of about 100 white and black men and women fought for half an hour, throwing stones, empty bottles and using clubs, after becoming embroiled over a baseball game when colored men were said to have threatened a group of white boys.

The combatants raged up and down a block in the northeastern section of the city and police reserves had difficulty in restoring order. After the fight was stopped, police were detailed to patrol the neighborhood, fearing that another outbreak might result in casualties.

## 300 RIOT IN STREETS OF WASHINGTON

**Argument Leads To General  
Fight In Which Many Are  
Injured. Police Reserves  
Called Out**

WASHINGTON, D. C. July 27. — A quarrel between two neighbors Friday on E. street between twentieth and Twenty-first streets, northwest was taken up by other dwellers in the vicinity and resulted in a riot. Over a score of the rioters were injured in the battle which was quelled only after arrival of two score policemen and detectives.

### Quite Disturbance

Five of the participants were treated at Emergency Hospital for cuts and bruises inflicted by flying stones and flower pots, and four persons were arrested and taken to the Third Police Precinct charged with disorderly conduct. Two who were taken into custody were released after questioning, and police patrolled the disturbed section through the night seeking four others said to have been involved.

### Carried To Hospital

Those treated at Emergency are John H. Cooper, 26 years old of

2039 E street northwest his wife Mary Cooper, 25 years old, of 329 Twenty-third street northwest; Dorothy Reid, 25 years old, of 25 O'Briens court northwest; Kathryn Patterson, 27, years old, of 2109 L street northwest, and Raymond Bell, 24 years old, of 2011 E street northwest.

### Are Arrested

Cooper and his wife were arrested charged with disorderly conduct and released on collateral. Bell and Kathryn Patterson, similarly charged were unable to furnish collateral. Dorothy Reid and Christine Bell, Raymond Bell's wife, were released after being questioned by police.

The riot was precipitated when Cooper became engaged in an argument with Bell in the alley in the rear of his home. When the verbal debate was abandoned for fisticuffs, neighbors joined in the dispute, and soon stones and flower pots were flying.



Riots - 1927

## Negro Soldiers Of Houston "Riot" Can Now Ask For Parole

WASHINGTON, March 8. — The sentences of 20 Negro soldiers, formerly of the 24th U. S. Infantry, who were convicted in the so-called Houston Riot of 1917, were today reduced 18 months.

All these prisoners will now become eligible for release on home parole within the next twelve months.

The Negro soldiers were infuriated by discrimination against them practiced by the Texans, and actively rebelled with rifles attacks on them.

## TWENTY NEGROES ARE ACCORDED CLEMENCY

All Soldiers Who Took Part in  
Houston Riot.

WASHINGTON, March 8. — (AP) — President Coolidge today lopped 18 months off the 30-year sentences of 20 negroes, former members of the 24th Infantry, who were originally sentenced to death or life imprisonment for participation in the race riots at Houston, Texas, on the night of Aug. 23, 1917.

By the action of the president, taken on recommendation of the War Department, the men will become eligible for parole within the next year.

With their release the last of the 63 negro soldiers tried by court martial of participating in the rioting that caused the death of 15 Houston during the war period will be taken off the prison rolls.

The outbreak in Houston came when troops of the first battalion of the 24th Regiment seized their arms at the barracks and ran riot in the city. Of 29 sentenced to death, 18 were executed under the war time authority of departmental military commanders to approve death sentences. President Wilson commuted the sentences of the others to life imprisonment. The original sentences of a number of others were life imprisonment.

The names of the 20 affected by President Coolidge's action announced today were not made public by the War Department. It was said, however, that 16 would be eligible for parole in June, two more in December and the last two in February, 1928.

## PRESIDENT COOLIDGE COMMUTES SENTENCE OF TWENTY- FOUR INFANTRYMEN

Washington, Mar. 10.—President Coolidge has ordered a reduction of eighteen months in the sentences of twenty former members of the Twenty-fourth U. S. Infantry, who are the only remaining prisoners now under sentence as a result of the so-called Houston riot of August 23, 1917. The order will be carried out under the immediate direction of the Secretary of War, in whose Department the case of the convicted infantrymen was properly reviewable, in the first instance.

### Third Reduction in Sentence

On December 9, 1922, the first of the sixty-five so-called Houston rioters, members of the Twenty-fourth Infantry, imprisoned for participation in disorder at Houston, Texas, August 23, 1917, was released on parole, when Ward Lindsey, under a ten-year sentence, was set free. On February 7, 1924, a delegation representing 120,000 signers of a petition for pardon was presented to the president. Later on May 13, 1924, Secretary of War Weeks, writing in regard to the imprisoned soldiers said:

"Of fifty-four of these men, thirty were serving life sentences. After certain recommendations and investigations, ten of these thirty men have received a reduction in their sentences that will make the eligible for release on home parole during 1925. The remaining 20 have received reductions from life sentences to 30 years, which makes sixteen of them eligible for home parole in 1937 and four of them imprisonment; but later their terms eligible in 1928."

Originally, therefore, these 20 prisoners received sentences of life imprisonment; but later their terms were reduced to 30 years; and this recent action of the President further advances the date of completion of one-third or ten years of their terms, when they become eligible for release on parole to their homes.

Houston.

## Home Within Year.

As a result of the President's action all of these twenty prisoners will become eligible for release on home parole within the next twelve months. Sixteen will be eligible in June, 1927, two in November, 1927; and the remaining two in February, 1928.

## COOLIDGE ASKED TO FREE SOLDIERS NOW IN LEAVENWORTH

## Equal Rights League Delegation Makes Request On Lincoln's Day

Washington, D. C.—A plea for the release of the Negro soldiers of the 24th Infantry now incarcerated at Leavenworth Prison was presented to President Coolidge on Monday, February 14, by a delegation of colored citizens representing the National Equal Rights League, the Rev. Geo. Frazier Miller of Brooklyn, president, Wm. Monroe Trotter of Boston, secretary, the Rev. T. S. Harten of Brooklyn, organizer.

Dr. Harten was the spokesman, and he recalled to the President that this drive for release of the soldier prisoners had started in the Sesqui-Centennial year, declaring that sentiment of the rank and file of American people that these men be liberated. Mr. Harten recalled his acquaintance with the President when Mr. Coolidge was Lieutenant-Governor and Governor of Massachusetts, and urged the traditions of that state as a background for the requested clemency.

President Coolidge asked the speaker a number of questions. "How many are in prison?" he wanted to know, with how long they have been there and the terms of their sentences. He was told that there were twenty, who had been in prison for ten years and that their sentences were for life. Then he said, in answer to the pleas put before him:

"I will take this matter up with the Secretary of War and see what can be done or their release."

"As to segregation in the govern-

ment departments, I am working on it, and I thought that it had all been eliminated. I shall continue until it is wiped out."

Among those making up the delegation were Dr. Harten, Dr. Miller, Mr. Trotter, and C. C. Somerville of the National Equal Rights League; Naval H. Thomas of the N. A. A. C. P. Attorney T. H. R. Clarke of the Douglass-Lincoln Race Conference; Mme. M. D. Butler, League of Colored Women Voters; Dr. J. H. Jernigan, National Race Congress. Fifty men and women from thirty states were present.

## Parole Dates For Houston Martyrs

## N. A. A C. P. Says Sixteen Will Be Eligible For Par- dons

New York, April 1.—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, has received from Lieutenant Colonel W. W. Merrill, Parole Officer of the U. S. Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas the parole dates of the 20 prisoners still confined of the original 54 sentenced after the Houston Riot of 1917. Sixteen of the prisoners will be eligible for parole on June 9, two on November 1, and two on February 29, 1928. Robert W. Bagnall, Director of Branches of the N. A. A. C. P. has consented to serve as First Friend and Advisor of one of the prisoners to be released on parole to New York City.

In this connection the National Office of the N. A. A. C. P. released the following statement:

At the first report of the Houston Riot on August 23, 1917, the N. A. A. C. P. immediately sent an investigator to the scene, whose findings were published and were made the basis of an appeal for Clemency to President Wilson, resulting in commutation from the death sentence for 10 soldiers. The N. A. A. C. P. also retained counsel to defend the men on trial. The N. A. A. C. P. organized delegations in behalf of the Houston Martyrs which visited three successive Presidents, Wilson, Harding and Coolidge, the last such delegation on February 7, 1924 bearing a petition signed with 125,000 names. A board of officers appointed shortly thereafter reviewed the sentences, and all sentences were commuted. On August 12, 1926, the War

Department reported only 20 of the original 54 still confined with probability that all would have been released in 1928 at the very latest. With the release of the last Houston Martyr, the N. A. A. C. P. will regard its work in this case, which began with the riot, as closed.

## NEW YORK JOURNAL

MAR 9 1927

## NEGRO RIOTERS WIN CLEMENCY

WASHINGTON, March 9.—President Coolidge commuted the sentences of twenty negroes, former members of the Twenty-fourth U. S. Infantry, originally sentenced to life for participation in the so-called Houston, Texas, riot of 1917.

The prisoners are the last remaining under sentence for the rioting in which a number of the soldiers, led by a sergeant, seized their rifles and went on a rampage through the streets.

Under the commutation, their sentences are reduced by eighteen months. Their life terms had been reduced to thirty years, and the President's action further advances the date of completion of one-third, or ten years of their terms, when they become eligible for parole. Sixteen of the men will now be eligible for parole this June.



MAR 9 1927

## Coolidge Cuts Terms of Negro Army Rioters; Twenty in Houston Mutiny Will Be Paroled

WASHINGTON, March 8 (AP).—President Coolidge today cut eighteen months off the thirty-year sentences of twenty negroes, former members of the Twenty-fourth Infantry, who originally were sentenced to death or life imprisonment for participation in the race riots at Houston, Texas, on the night of Aug. 23, 1917.

By the action of the President, taken on recommendation of the War Department, the men will become eligible for parole within the next year.

With their release the last of the sixty-three negro soldiers tried by the court-martial for participation in the rioting that caused seventeen deaths in Houston will be taken off the prison rolls.

The outbreak in Houston came when troops of the First Battalion of the Twenty-fourth Infantry seized their arms at the barracks and ran riot in the city. Of twenty-nine sentenced to death, eighteen were executed under the wartime authority of departmental military commanders to approve death sentences.

The names of the twenty affected by President Coolidge's action announced today were not made public by the War Department. It was said, however, that sixteen would be eligible for parole in June, two more in December and the last two in February, 1928.

HOUSTON, Texas, March 8 (AP).—Houston vividly recalls the riots on the night of Aug. 23, 1917, when about 100 negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth Infantry mutinied, killed several of their white officers, seized some of the arms in camp and, inflamed with liquor, began a march toward Houston.

On the way the negroes shot and killed several persons, but finally were halted by Houston policemen and squads of armed civilians in the negro section, where the rioters arrived after traveling more than two miles from Camp Logan, their quarters, then under construction.

Meanwhile the news had gone out over the State that Houston was in danger of destruction at the hands of the rioters and a few hours later special trains loaded with soldiers from Fort Sam Houston at San Antonio and Fort Crockett at Galveston arrived in the city.

Martial law was declared and the negroes were rounded up gradually. A count of the dead and injured showed twenty white persons had been killed and more than that number injured.

The negro soldiers, the record shows, had been angered by a controversy between a negro military policeman and a white policeman in the streets of Houston during the afternoon. The military man claimed precedence in the matter of traffic orders over the white man.

### PRESIDENT COOLIDGE ACTS

We are pleased to learn that President Coolidge has taken further action in the case of the alleged Houston rioters.

The colored people of the nation are to be congratulated upon their persistent, conscientious fight for justice in this case. Former warden, Mr. Biddle, speaking of the imprisoned men of the Twenty-fourth Infantry said: "They are the finest group of men in this institution. And while they are imprisoned, yet their souls are free. I want you people to do all you can for them." Such a commendation coming from the warden of the penitentiary shows that the men referred to were worthy of any help which the sympathetic public might give them. They were entitled to that which they had not received—justice. All of these facts were laid before President Coolidge, and he acted in their behalf.

## Twenty Negroes Convicted of Rioting In Houston Receive Sentence Reduction

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By the action of the president, taken on recommendation of the war department, the men will become eligible for parole within the next year.

With their release the last of the 63 negro soldiers tried by court-martial of participating in the rioting that caused 17 deaths in Houston during the war period will be taken off the prison rolls.

The outbreak in Houston came when troops of the first battalion of the 24th regiment seized their arms at the barracks and ran riot in the city.

Of the 29 sentenced to death, 18 were executed under the war time authority of departmental military commanders to approve death sentences. President Wilson commuted the sentences of the others to life imprisonment. The original sentences of a number of others were life imprisonment.

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### Morgan Phi Betas Elect Smith Prexy

Mark Anthony Smith, Morgan College junior student of New York City College, was elected president of the local Gamma chapter of the Beta Sigma Fraternity at the annual election Friday.

Mr. Smith served as vice president of the chapter during the past year and was one of the most influential fraternity workers on the campus. He succeeds James Williams, who graduated in June.

The other officers elected were: J. Haywood Brown, vice president; George Rage, secretary; Robert Jackson, financial secretary; and McCulloh Pinkett, treasurer.

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Riots - 1927

## A WELCOME COMMUTATION

There must have been great rejoicing in Leavenworth when the news reached that gloomy pile that President Coolidge had cut eighteen months off the thirty-year sentences of the twenty former members of the Twenty-fourth Infantry, who were originally sentenced to death or life imprisonment for their part in the so-called race riots at Houston, Texas, on the evening of August 23, 1917. They will thus be eligible for parole within the next twelve months. This is the third reduction of sentence that has been granted, the others having been announced on December 9, 1922, when the first of the rioters imprisoned for participation in the mutiny was released on parole, and on May 13, 1924, when several of the men received substantial reductions in their sentences. Sixteen of the remaining prisoners will be released on home parole in June, 1927; two the following November; and the remaining two in February, 1928.

Black America has fought hard to have these men released. Huge petitions have been presented to the authorities and time after time individuals and delegations have asked clemency for them. Inside of a year the gates of Leavenworth will open for the last one. All Black America rejoices with these men over the presidential clemency. And while we realize the seriousness of the offense for which they were convicted, and for which eighteen black boys in khaki paid the supreme penalty, we nevertheless know full well the hated insults that provoked them to the deed. With the release of the remaining prisoners one of the deepest of the war scars will be removed from our hearts though hardly from our minds.

## Release Eleven Houston Rioters

Leavenworth, Kansas, June 15. —Eleven former members of the Twenty-fourth Infantry, convicted for participation in the Houston riot of 1917, were released on parole late Saturday from the U. S. Disciplinary Barracks here.

More than 100 soldiers were convicted in connection with the Houston riot. Several were sentenced to be hanged and sixty-nine received sentences of life imprisonment. Several of the life termers received executive clemency a few weeks ago and were transferred from the Federal prison to the military prison.

Early in April, President Coolidge ordered a reduction of eighteen months in the sentences of twenty former members of the twenty-fourth U. S. Infantry, who are the only remaining prisoners now under sentence as a result of the so-called Houston riot of August 2, 1917.

Third Reduction in Sentence

On December 9, 1922, the first of the sixty-five so-called Houston rioters, members of the Twenty-fourth Infantry, imprisoned for participation in disorder at Houston, Texas, August 23, 1917, was released on parole, when Ward Lindsey, under a ten-year sentence was set free. On February 7, 1924, a delegation representing 120,000 signers of a petition for pardon was presented to the President. Later on May 13, 1924, Secretary of War, Weeks, writing in regard to the imprisoned soldiers said:

"Of fifty-four of these men, thirty were serving life sentences. After certain recommendations and investigations, ten of these thirty men have received a reduction in their sentences that will make them eligible for release on home parole during 1925. The remaining twenty have received reductions from life sentences to 30 years which makes sixteen of them eligible for home parole in 1927 and four of the eligible in 1928."

## N. A. A. C. P. RECEIVES LIST OF PAROLE DATES FOR "HOUSTON MARTYRS"

New York, April 1.—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue, has received from Lieutenant Colonel W. W. Merrill, Parole Officer of the U. S. Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, the parole dates of the 20 prisoners still confined of the original 54 sentenced after the Houston Riot of 1917.

Sixteen of the prisoners will be eligible for parole on June 9, two on November 1, and two on February 29, 1928. Robert W. Bagnally, Director of Branches of the N. A. A. C. P. has consented to serve as first friend and advisor of one of the prisoners to be released on parole to New York City.

In this connection the National Office of the N. A. A. C. P. released the following statement:

At the first report of the Houston Riot on August 23, 1917, the N. A. A. C. P. immediately sent an investigator to the scene, whose findings were published and were made the basis of an appeal for clemency to President Wilson, resulting in commutation from death sentence for 10 soldiers. The N. A. A. C. P. also retained counsel to defend the men on trial. The N. A. A. C. P. organized delegations in behalf of the Houston Martyrs which visited three successive Presidents, Wilson, Harding, and Coolidge, the last such delegation on February 7, 1924, bearing a petition signed with 125,000 names. A board of officers appointed shortly thereafter reviewed the sentences, and all sentences, were commuted. On August 12 1926, the War Department reported only 20 of the original 54 still confined with probability that all would have been released in 1928 at the very latest. With the release of the last Houston Martyr, the N. A. A. C. P. will regard its work in this case, which began with the riot, as closed.

## N. Y. WORLD

JUN 11 1927

## 11 TEXAS RIOTERS FREE

Members of Negro Infantry, Convicted of Houston Disorders, Paroled

LEAVENWORTH, Kan., June 10 (A. P.)—Eleven former members of the 24th Infantry (Negro), convicted of participation in the Houston riot in 1917, were released on parole late yesterday from the United States Disciplinary Barracks here.

More than 100 soldiers were convicted of participation in the Houston riot. Several were hanged and sixty-nine received sentences of life imprisonment. Several of the life termers received executive clemency a few years ago and were transferred from the Federal penitentiary to the military prison.

DALLAS, TEX.

DEC 30 1927

THE DALLAS

## POLLARD WILL LEAD WAR ON NEGRO SHRINE

TO ARGUE CASE BEFORE U. S. SUPREME COURT ON JANUARY 9.

The famous negro Shrine case in which the Shrine order is seeking to abolish and permanently enjoin a negro Shrine will be argued before the United States Supreme Court in Washington Jan. 9, with Claude Pollard, Attorney General of Texas, representing the white Shrine.

Mr. Pollard is attorney for Arabia Temple at Houston in a private capacity and not as Attorney General of Texas. The suit against the negro order was filed in Harris County in 1918. Mr. Pollard appearing as attorney for Arabia Temple.

The original suit was against Arabia Temple, a negro order, and later the national Shrine organization intervened. The District Court of Harris County granted an injunction, made applicable all

over the United States, and the decision of the lower court has been upheld by the Court of Civil Appeals at Galveston and the State Supreme Court.

The negro Shrine at Houston and thirteen other temples were organized by a man who appeared in Houston in 1893, claiming to be an Arab and to hold authority from that country to organize Shrine temples. The existence of the negro order, in possession of Shrine secrets, was discovered by the white Shrine later and suit filed. Mr. Pollard said he has spent the Christmas holidays preparing his brief in the case.

Other cases in which the State of Texas is interested will be taken up by the Supreme Court at the same setting. Including the Texas-New Mexico boundary suit, in which the Attorney General will file a decree, and a case involving the constitutionality of the State commercial fishing law. This case will be argued. Mr. Pollard will appear in these two cases in an official capacity.



Riots - 1927

## NEW YORK Herald & Tribune

### Coffeyville Troops Block Race Riot in High School

#### White Students Heed Captain's Warning Against Violence; Mob Members Arrested

COFFEYVILLE, Kan., March 21 (AP).—Negro high school students took their customary places in classes here today while white students attended a special assembly called by I. A. Decker, superintendent, at which Captain G. W. Noel, commander of Troop B, 117th Cavalry, warned them that no attempt at violence toward the Negro students would be countenanced.

The white students heeded the advice and quietly went to classes when the assembly ended. There was no show of antagonism.

The guardsmen, called out Friday night when a mob attempted to seize a Negro arrested in connection with an attack on two white girls by three Negroes, were stationed about the school this morning. It had been reported that high school students would attempt to prevent Negroes from attending school.

Arrest of members of the mob, which damaged the city building, continued today.

### GUARDSMEN PUT END TO KANSAS RACE RIOT

Attempt to Lynch Negroes  
Foiled by Officers.

ALL QUIET ON THE FRONT

Three Injured Men, Badly Damaged City Hall and Shaky Nerves  
Reminders of Night of Turmoil.  
Negroes Released.

COFFEYVILLE, Kan., March 19. (AP)—Coffeyville awoke today with the uncanny feeling that the storming of the city jail here last night in an effort to free a negro prisoner from the law was but an unrealized dream in the dark. Patroling National Guardsmen, three injured men and badly damaged city hall, however, testified to the stark reality of the night's events.

KANSAS.

Four men were under arrest on charges of looting a hardware store. The negro sought by the mob after his arrest in connection with an attack on two high school girls was free and county and military authorities were confident they would be no repetition of mob activity.

#### All Released.

The negro, Curtis Smith, was released when officials said they did not have enough evidence to hold the negro. Neither girl could identify him as one of the attackers.

Two other negroes, arrested with Smith, were freed yesterday when they satisfied officers they did not participate in the attack.

W. D. McCrabb, sheriff of Montgomery County, announced that the three negroes, answering the description given by the girls, were under arrest in Humboldt, Kan., and would be questioned today.

City officials declared their intention of starting an investigation of the mob, and friends of one of the injured men declared a damage suit would be filed against the city immediately under the Kansas mob law, which holds the city responsible for mob violence. Three men constitute a mob under the law and there were virtually 2,000 men, women and children about the city hall when three attempts were made to take Curtis Smith, the negro, from the officers.

#### Every Window Broken.

Every window in the city hall was broken out when bricks, rocks and other missiles were hurled at the intrenched officers. Smith was taken from room to room in the hall and finally was shoved into a cupola while the sheriff invited the mob to search the buildings.

Troops A and G, 101st and Yates Center, Kan., national guard cavalry, arrived at 4 o'clock this morning to reinforce B troop. Detachments patrolled the streets and the negro section to enforce military rule.

### BROOKLYN EAGLE

MAR 19 1927

### KANSAS RACE RIOT IS CHECKED AFTER NIGHT OF TERROR

#### Troops Guard Coffeyville Mob Stormed Negro Section and Jail.

Coffeyville, Kan., March 19 (AP)—A race riot in which two persons were

injured when a mob of more than a thousand men and women stormed the city jail in an effort to remove three negroes held for attacking two white girls, was under control today with National Guardsmen patrolling the streets to enforce military rule.

#### To Investigate Mob.

Scores of broken windows and a badly damaged City Hall today attested to the rioting. Four men were under arrest for looting. Curtis Smith, the last of the three negroes the mob sought to capture, was released when neither of the assaulted girls could identify him.

City officials declared their intention of starting an investigation of the mob, and friends of one of the injured men declared a damage suit would be filed against the city immediately under the Kansas mob law which holds the city responsible for mob violence.

Infuriated by reports of the attack on the girls, yesterday afternoon groups of men followed officers about the city in the search for the negroes. Bloodhounds soon took up a trail that led to a frame house. A large crowd surrounded the building, which officers announced was vacant in an effort to disperse the mob.

#### Officers' Ruse Fails.

The ruse failed, and after reinforcements arrived the officers escorted three negroes from the house. By moving slowly through the crowd, they took the prisoners to the city jail without incident.

Women and children joined the crowd at the jail, where youths, encouraged by older persons, started stoning it. Police and sheriff's deputies were posted at all entrances and spokesmen for the authorities

#### Mob Invades Negro Quarter.

When leaders of the mob were informed that the negroes were not in the jail, groups left the throng to invade the negro quarter, where upward of 4,000 negroes live. Several fist fights occurred between whites and blacks and sporadic firing began.

William Waddle, 17, a printer's apprentice, was struck in the legs by a charge of buckshot and received a pistol bullet through an arm. The shots were fired by negroes who came to the rescue of one of their race who had been severely beaten. R. C. Walton, 45, a foundry foreman, was injured in the rush to safety as the firing increased.

As Waddle hurried through the streets to his office, many saw the blood from his wounds and men rushed to hardware stores to obtain guns and ammunition. When they found the doors locked, they broke into the stores and obtained shotguns and ammunition.

Troop B, local National Guard cavalry, appeared during the firing. The 40-odd men of the troop scattered through the streets, wearing steel helmets and full war equipment. The sight of the soldiers had a quieting effect on many of the mob, but others jeered. Many windows were shattered by stray bullets.

#### Foiled in Plan to Burn Jail.

Soldiers then mounted guard over hardware stores and the white people deserted the negro quarter to return to the jail. A fire hose strung through the city hall to aid in repulsing attacks on the jail was cut up and carried away.

Officers told the mob that two of the negroes had been exonerated and released, while the third, Curtis Smith, 33, had been removed from the jail on the fire truck which brought the hose.

Youths led by men then rushed for filling stations to obtain gasoline to set fire to the jail. The stations had been closed and they returned empty-handed.

An American flag was then displayed from a city hall window. The mob jeered. Messages from State officials imploring the people to avoid bloodshed met with similar response.

The mob continued to demand Vanges and Garvin Hardin, brothers, the two negroes who were released as well as Smith. Nearly 1,500 persons had assembled at dusk.

Word was then received that Co. A of 101st and Co. G of Yates Center, units of the 117th Cavalry, Kansas National Guard, had been mobilized and would arrive this morning. The mob began to break up shortly before midnight and only a few remained at 1 o'clock.

#### Prisoner Spirited From City.

The soldiers went about breaking up small groups. Smith was said to have been removed from the jail during the firing and was reported to have been taken to another city this morning. Robert Liggins, a negro watchman, was arrested by the guardsmen on the belief that he fired the first shot.

It was the first racial disturbance Coffeyville, a city of about 20,000 population, had experienced in more than 20 years.

Coffeyville, Kan., Apr. 7, 1927.—Colored high school students took their customary places in classes here last week, while white students, their threats of violence quieted by an order from the state militia that no disorder "will be countenanced," went to their schools.

Arrest of members of the mob, which has resulted in the issuing of 14 warrants, continued Saturday. County authorities are continuing the investigation.

One more state has rebuked the Ku Klux Klan by defeating the bill which would prohibit intermarriage of white and colored people. This state is Maine and Milton A. Geary, of Bangor, reports to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that the Judiciary Committee of the Maine Legislature did not even vote on it. The order was passed that the bill "ought not to pass" and it was promptly dropped.

When arguments for the bill were called for, no one appeared in its

favor, Mr. Geary reports, and it was not even necessary to hear any of the 50 or more people on hand ready to oppose it.

### N. Y. WORLD

MAR 20 1927

### GUARD AWES MOB, RACE RIOTERS QUIT

Also, Coffeyville Crowd Finds  
It Wanted to Lynch an  
Innocent Negro

CITY HALL IS SHOT UP

Meantime Three Are Held for  
Attack on Girls

COFFEYVILLE, Kan., March 19 (A. P.)—With the National Guard in evidence on its streets in contrast to Friday night's mob, Coffeyville settled down early to-night, not only because the National Guard ordered it to do so, but because realization has come it was an innocent Negro the mob wanted to hang for attacking two white girls.

Major A. E. Patterson, commander of the National Guard, ordered all stores, cafes, theatres and other public gathering places closed at 9 o'clock last night and to-night. Somewhere, perhaps in Coffeyville and perhaps as far away as he had been able to travel in so short a time, Curtis Smith was free after a frenzied night in which he was the object of a mob's attack on the city jail.

Smith was released when officers found there was not even enough evidence to justify holding him. He was taken Friday with two other Negroes, after an attack on two white girls by three Negroes that morning. The other two were released before the mob gathered.

#### Three Men a Mob Under Law

Hope of avenging the girls centred in Humboldt, where Sheriff McCrabb of Montgomery County announced he had three Negroes answering the description given by the girls.



Four men were injured in the rioting and friends of one were considering bringing a suit on his behalf to recover damages from the city under the Kansas law, which holds a city responsible for mob violence. Three men are enough to form a mob, according to the Kansas law, and there were between 1,500 and 2,000 persons, including women and children, storming around the jail.

Billy Waddles, seventeen, was shot in the hand when the mob stormed the jail and to-day part of the hand was amputated. He is in a serious condition at the hospital. R. C. Walden, foreman of a machine plant, was trampled and his shoulder dislocated. Herschel Ford, a Negro janitor, was shot through the hip. Napoleon Anderson, another Negro, was shot through both legs.

Three men were under arrest for looting hardware stores in search of weapons for breaking the jail. They were turned over to county authorities.

#### City Hall Is Shot Up

All windows in the City Hall, which contains the jail, were broken by stones and shots. About 100 shots were fired. The defenders, including city and county peace officers, with about twenty deputized citizens, retaliated with tear bombs.

A theory that the attack on the girls was made by white men with blackened faces was discounted by the girls.

Although National Guardsmen patrolled the streets, the commander said the city was merely under military control and not under martial rule. County authorities said an investigation probably will be made to determine who were the instigators of the riot and attacks on county officers. City authorities said their investigation would be with regard to those responsible for material damages.

NEW YORK  
JOURNAL

MAR 19 1927

# TROOPS BAR RACE RIOTS IN KANSAS

Cavalry Patrols Streets of  
Coffeyville After Battle in  
Which 3 Are Shot.

By International News Service.  
COFFEYVILLE, Kan., March  
19.—Coffeyville was under mar-

tial law today, as a result of a threatened race riot. The trouble started last night, when three negroes were arrested following attacks on three white girls.

Martial law was declared when more than 1,000 white citizens, armed with clubs and a few with firearms, attempted to invade the negro settlement. The negroes barricaded themselves in their homes and fired upon the mob. More than 100 shots were exchanged.

Sheriff's forces, reinforced by the cavalry company, succeeded in dispersing the mob, but not until three white persons had been shot.

A local cavalry company is patrolling the streets. National units are being rushed in from Iowa and Yates Center on orders of the Governor. All hardware stores are under guard to prevent seizure of arms.

LYNCHBURG  
VIRGINIA

MAR 20 1927

#### A MOB IN KANSAS.

The national guard had to be called out in Kansas to keep a white mob at Coffeyville from making war upon the colored residents of that place. The whites are angered because of a negro attack upon two white girls. Attention is here directed to the matter because it happened in Kansas, a State north of the Mason's and Dixon's line. Also Kansas is a State in which criticism of the South upon this race problem has been indulged in with frequency and severity. When, however, Kansans are faced with the same problem, they act just like Southerners—only more so. In the South the crime of an individual colored man is seldom visited upon his race. Victims of lynchings are almost invariably guilty or thought to be guilty, and Southern mobs have rarely vented their rage upon negroes they knew to be innocent of offense. In the north, the rage against the individual appears to become rage against the race; and considering the very much larger number of negroes in the South, and therefore the greater frequency of temptation to mob violence, the record of the South in this particular is just as good if not better than that of the very sections which are its most frequent critics.

## DIGNITY OF LAW IS OUTRAGED

Coffeyville, Kansas, is the latest stage for the perennial American tragedy of mob law. The hysteria of Coffeyville is only another proof that mobs and their doings are the sole property of no particular section of the United States. The heartening feature of the Kansas case is that officers of the law appear to have succeeded in holding off the would-be lynchers of the suspected assailant of two girls until he could be identified. The victims were unable to say that he was their assailant and he was freed.

Thus was Coffeyville saved the embarrassment inseparable from lynching the wrong man. Accuracy is extremely desirable in such matters. It cannot be said that the town was saved anything else on the score of law and order, since a full-fledged race riot was the aftermath of the futile efforts to storm the city hall.

Deplorable as are these exhibitions of barbaric blood lust, aroused by revolting crimes, even though they are, there is a sameness about them all, whether they occur in Chicago, Atlanta, St. Louis or in the state that is associated with the exploits of John Brown. Human nature is very much the same north and south. Crime of a certain type always stirs a desire for swift vengeance. Self restraint under such conditions is the test

of community's respect for law. More and more there is growing up in all sections of the country the feeling that mob law is a mistake, a grievous blot on the reputation of the people, who flout the or-

derly process of justice and take vengeance into their own hands. There have been too many cases where innocent men, white and black, have been saved from too swift justice only by timely discovery of evidence that exonerated them.

The inescapable effects of mob violence are that the dignity of the law is dragged in the mire, bad feeling is generated and what little deterrent may be exercised upon those inclined to commit similar crimes is offset by the permanent damage done to the cause of law and order. Thus the practice defeats its own purpose.

NEW YORK TIMES

MAR 20 1927

## TROOPS CLAMP LID ON RACE RIOT CITY

Guardsmen Order Coffeyville  
(Kan.) Highways Cleared and  
Stores Closed by 9 P. M.

### SOLDIERS PATROL STREETS

Negroes Protest Being Searched for  
Arms—National Body Urges  
Punishment of Rioters.

COFFEYVILLE, Kan., March 19 (AP).—The military, cooperating with civil authorities, clamped down the lid on Coffeyville tonight to prevent a recurrence of last night's race rioting in which four persons were injured and the City Hall was stoned by a mob.

All business houses, cafés, theatres and other public gathering places were ordered closed at 9 P. M. as a precautionary measure.

With the city under strict military rule, the situation remained outwardly quiet and authorities expressed confidence that there would be no repetition of last night's disorders, which were precipitated when a group of whites clashed with negroes after unsuccessful attempts by the former to seize a negro held in the city jail in connection with an assault on two white girls.

Orders to clear the streets at 9 o'clock tonight and tomorrow night were issued by Major E. T. Patterson, commanding three troops of National Guard cavalry on duty here, on the advice of Mayor Elmer Joyce.

Troops guarding the City Hall, in which the jail is located, were withdrawn and deployed along Union Street, a thoroughfare given over to negro business and amusement places.

Curtis Smith, the negro sought by the mob, was released after the girls were unable to identify him, Sheriff W. D. McCrabb, declared. Rumors persisted, however, that Smith was in custody in a near-by county.

Two other negroes arrested with Smith were freed yesterday when they satisfied officers they did not participate in the attack.

#### Negroes Protest Searching.

Several negro leaders protested to the military over the searching of negroes by soldiers on downtown streets. They said some negro citizens had been stopped and searched for arms as many as ten times. Negro gatherings in cafés and barber shops were dispersed.

The order issued by the National Guard commander was stringent and warned that any person making inflammatory remarks would be arrested. Business men assured officials that they would willingly comply with the 9 P. M. closing edict.

The only outward sign of last night's trouble was the damaged City Hall, with almost every window broken, and the patrols of tin-hatted soldiers in full wartime equipment.

Some citizens criticized Sheriff McCrabb for taking the three negroes arrested for questioning in connection with the attack on the girls to the city jail yesterday after a crowd already had gathered outside the building.

Others praised the courage of the officer for defying attempts by the mob to storm the jail and seize Smith. Tear gas was used to repulse several rushes, and the officers withheld more drastic action, although members of the mob, which numbered about 1,500, stoned the hall and got out of hand.

#### City Under Military Rule.

Mayor Patterson's order to the city follows:

"The City of Coffeyville is under military rule, with troops of the Kansas National Guard cooperating with the civil authorities in the maintenance of order and the prevention of disturbances.

"As Commander of the Kansas National Guard forces on duty in Coffeyville, I hereby order every place of business in the city to close its doors tonight and tomorrow night at 9 o'clock; that at 9 o'clock tonight and Sunday night all streets in the downtown district be cleared of pedestrians and motor cars and that there shall be

no congregating of persons at any place within the city limits. "I further notify the public that any remarks of an inflammatory nature by persons on the streets at any time during the period of military rule will result in the arrest of the persons concerned."

"E. T. PATTERSON,  
Major, 114th Cavalry, Kansas National Guard."



Riots - 1927

Kansas.

Tear gas guns fired into the crowd apparently served only to increase the anger, and feeling against the colored men, which had been at fever heat throughout the day, was fanned into a flame.

### Two Beaten in Street.

As the white members of the throng of 1,000 or more made a run to enter the colored section, two colored men were encountered in a dark doorway. A fist fight resulted in the colored men being severely beaten.

Other colored men appeared on the scene before the two had risen from the street and immediately opened fire.

Early in the evening the mob tried to force entrance to the jail, but was repulsed with tear bombs.

Prior to the sortie by the mob, members of the crowd had been permitted to enter the jail and search it. Officers assured them the colored men were not there and the prisoners were not found.

Officials declared Curtis Smith, one of the colored prisoners, had been smuggled away hidden under hose in a fire truck, which left the fire house in the building.

### Troops Called Out.

Some of the mob expressed the belief that all three colored men, or at least Smith, were being held in a room in the building near the jail.

Troop B, 140th Cavalry, Kansas National Guard, which had assembled for any emergency, was called out soon after 10 p. m.

### THAT COFFEYVILLE STUNT

The other day, down in the little burg of Coffeyville, Kansas, a Negro was charged with a cruel crime; a mob quickly formed, bent on lynching the Negro. Quick action of the authorities blocked the mobcrats in their frenzied rage for blood; but determined to satisfy their American pastime, the mob started for the Negro section of the town, where they planned to destroy life and property. The Negroes had prepared for the "lynching party" and on their arrival, greeted them with a hail of hot lead. A few casualties resulted, and what might have been a terrible death dealing tragedy, was prevented by the quick action of the governor in dispatching the national guard unit to the scene.

That Kansas did not endorse this outrage against law and order, is prov-

en by the tireless efforts of the state, county and city officials in investigating the matter, resulting in many arrests being made. This is as it should be—Kansas in general and Coffeyville in particular, must be commended for this noble stand. This is an example well worthy of emulation by other towns and states.

Below we reproduce an editorial from the Nashville Banner, under date of April 5, which needs no comment:

### KANSAS TAKES STAND

"On the night of March 18, a mob attempted to storm the jail at Coffeyville, Kan., to secure a Negro charged with a serious crime. Failing to secure its intended victim on account of the courageous attitude assumed by the officers in charge of the jail, the mob later turned its attention to the Negro quarter of the town and committed some measure of depredation. There was some shooting and more than one casualty. Even more serious trouble was prevented by the commendable swiftness with which the governor sent national guard units to Coffeyville. Before militant determination that the majesty of the law was not to be infringed on, the mob, as usual, showed the white feather and disbanded. The performance did not rebound to the credit of the state, however, and the stand against mob violence originally taken is being held and improved on.

Since the rioting at Coffeyville, state, county and city officers have been busy and to date about a score of indictments have been returned against alleged members of the mob. There is every indication that Kansas intends to push the matter to the limit and it is to be hoped that this turns out to be the case. There can be no successful compromise with the violent spirit of outlawry that prompts a mob. Any measure of forbearance is instantly interpreted as weakness by the lawless and the final result is infinitely more evil than if a state pursues the course of Kansas and probes and punishes as thoroughly as is in any way possible. The price of peace from mobs is war on them and relentless war, at that.

It has been only two or three years since North Carolina was the scene of several outbreaks of mob spirit. The state rose up in arms against such a state of affairs and ran down and punished the members of the mobs in short order and without faltering or flinching. As a consequence, mobs have since been unknown in North Carolina and it is doubtful that the battle will ever have to be fought over again. More recently, Georgia has been waging a brisk campaign against lynchers, and masked desperadoes and the state has been the recipient of much deserved commendation. The fight is not yet over in Georgia, but it is being won. The forces of decency battle with the sense of being right and victory is theirs largely on that account. In Tennessee, it is sad to be obliged to say, there are several unsolved lynchings standing as black marks against the fair name of the state, and there is no sign of any effort to erase the stain. It is a profound pity that any state in the Union does not have the moral courage to do what North Carolina has done and what Kansas and Georgia are doing."

NEW YORK

Herald & Tribune

MAR 19 1927

## Troops Called Out to Halt Race Riot in Kansas

### Coffeyville Mob Foiled at Jail, Sacks Shops for Guns, Invade Negro Quarter; Three Are Shot

By The Associated Press

COFFEYVILLE, Kan., March 18.—A race war broke out here late tonight when a mob of whites, who had besieged the city jail in an effort to seize three Negroes arrested in connection with an assault on two white girls, attempted to invade the Negro quarter.

The whites were repulsed and at least three persons were shot. The armed clash came after a group of white youths had kicked in the door of a hardware store and obtained arms

and ammunition. About 100 shots were exchanged. Three National Guard companies have been called.

The attempt to force an entrance came after officers had announced that two of the Negroes had been released and that the third had been smuggled out of the jail.

### Routed by Tear Gas Bombs

While more than 1,000 persons were milling around the building a group of 100 men climbed to the roof of an adjoining building and placed a ladder across to a window of the city hall, in which the jail is situated. When two of the leaders started across the ladder officers fired tear-gas guns and the men retreated.

Prior to the sortie by the mob, members of the crowd had been permitted to enter the jail and search it. Officers assured them that the Negroes were not there and the prisoners were not found.

The officials declared Curtis Smith, one of the Negroes, had been smuggled away hidden under hose in a fire truck, which left the fire house in the building. Vanges and Garvin Hardin, brothers, the other men arrested, had cleared themselves and were released, the officers insisted.

However, the mob was not satisfied and the attempt to force an entrance through the second story window followed.

### Guard Troop Called Out

Troop B, 140th Cavalry, Kansas National Guard, which had assembled for any emergency, was called out shortly after 10 o'clock on orders from the adjutant general at Topeka.

The attack on the girls occurred in an unlighted room and police said positive identification might prove difficult. The girls reported they had scratched one of their assailants on the face and neck, and one of the girls said she bit the finger of another. Police refused to disclose whether the prisoners bore any marks of the struggle. The girls were alone in the house when the Negroes entered through a window.

William Waddle, seventeen years old, white, a printer's apprentice, was taken to a hospital with buckshot in his legs and a revolver wound in his hand. The youth was in the line of fire and was not accompanying those who had started into the Negro region. R. C. Wilton, 45, was trampled in the rush to safety.

Martial law was proclaimed and guards placed over all hardware stores. Steps were begun to disarm all citizens.

A guard was thrown about the Negro quarter as a result of threats that homes would be burned.

## CLASSMEN DROP RACE FEELING

COFFEYVILLE, Kansas, March 21 —(AP)—Negro high school students took their customary places in classes here today while white students attended a special assembly called by Superintendent I. A. Decker, at which Captain G. W. Noel, commander of Troop B, 117th Cavalry, warned them that no attempt at violence toward the negro students would be countenanced.

The white students heeded the advice and quietly went to classes when the assembly ended. There was no show of antagonism.

Arrest of members of the mob, which damaged the city building, continued today. Fourteen warrants were issued late Saturday and others were expected today as county authorizing continued their investigation.

NEW YORK NEWS

## TROOPS CALLED AS LYNCH MOB BATTLE POLICE

Coffeyville, Kas., March 18 (AP).—Race war broke out here late tonight when a mob of more than 1,000 white persons, who had besieged the city jail in an effort to seize three colored men arrested in connection with an assault on two white girls, attempted to invade the colored quarter. Martial law has been proclaimed.

The whites were repulsed and at least three persons were shot.

The armed clash came after a group of white youths had kicked in the door of a hardware store and obtained arms and ammunition. About 100 shots were exchanged.



The clash came after a group of youths had shattered virtually every window in the city hall and failed in several attempts to storm the jail.

Troop B, the Kansas National Guard unit stationed here, called out a few hours before, arrived shortly after the shooting occurred and for the time being assumed control of the situation. The men were carrying full war equipment and wearing steel helmets.

The crowd soon returned, some bearing shotguns, and more trouble was feared before daybreak.

A fire hose strung through the city hall as an aid in repulsing the attack was cut to shreds and carried away.

Windows in several downtown business establishments were shattered by the flying bullets.

A complete check of the injured was not available.

#### Gas Bombs Increase Mob's Ire

Tear-gas bombs fired into the crowd apparently served only to increase the anger of the mob.

As the whites made a run to enter the colored section two Negroes were encountered in a dark doorway and a fist fight immediately began which resulted in the Negroes being severely beaten.

Other Negroes appeared and immediately opened fire.

Pandemonium reigned as screaming women and children pushed by scrambling men sought safety.

Urged on by older members, boys let loose a barrage of rocks at the City Hall and the crashing of glass from the windows was interspersed with cheers from onlookers. Another crowd began collecting in front of the City Hall at 11:50 p. m. There was no outward show of violence, however.

#### 3 Guard Units Called Out

TOPEKA, Kans., March 18 (AP).—Three units of the Kansas National Guard were called to-night by Governor Paulen for service at Coffeyville in answer to a request made by Sheriff Walter McCrabb and the Mayor of the city.

Guardsmen from Jola and Yates Center were ordered to embark in motor cars for Coffeyville to reinforce the unit stationed there.

N. Y. WORLD

MAR 19 1927

## KANSAS TROOPS STOP RACE RIOT; 3 OF MOB SHOT

Crowd Storming Jail in Coffeyville Repulsed With Bullets and Tear Gas. Whereupon

### Whites Raid Stores for Guns to Battle Officers

### LYNCHERS HUNTED THREE NEGROES ACCUSED BY GIRL

### Martial Law Declared — One Prisoner Reported Spirited Away Under Fire Hose

COFFEYVILLE, Kan., March 18 (A. P.).—Race war broke out here late to-night, when a mob of whites, who had besieged the city jail in an effort to seize three Negroes arrested in connection with an assault on two white girls, attempted to invade the Negro quarter.

The whites were repulsed and at least three persons shot.

The armed clash came after a group of white youths had kicked in the door of a hardware store and obtained arms and ammunition. About 100 shots were exchanged.

William Waddle, seventeen, white, a printer's apprentice, was taken to a hospital with buckshot in his legs and a revolver wound in his hand. The youth was in the line of fire and was not accompanying those who had started into the Negro region.

#### Rocks Hurling at City Hall

Urged on by older members, boys between nineteen and twenty-one years let loose a barrage of rocks at the City Hall and the crashing of glass from the windows was interspersed with cheers from onlookers.

An effort was made to obtain gasoline for the shouted intention of firing the City Hall in an effort to force an entrance to the jail. All filling stations were closed, however, and this plan was abandoned. The boys returned to the building with a replenished supply of stones and the assault was resumed.

No effort was made by the officers and guards inside the building to halt this and an American flag waved from a front window of the hall was greeted with jeers.

Five young men were arrested, charged with breaking into hardware stores and looting the stocks of guns and ammunition. Several others were disarmed and their guns confiscated.

#### Attack in Unlighted Room

The attack on the girl occurred in an unlighted room and police said positive identification of the assailants

might prove difficult. The girls reported they had scratched one of their assailants on the face and neck and one of the girls said she bit the finger of another. Police to-night refused to disclose whether the prisoners bore any marks. The girls were alone in the house when the Negroes entered through a window.

Prior to the sortie by the mob members of the crowd had been permitted to enter the jail and search it. Officers assured them the Negroes were not there, and the prisoners were not found.

Officials declared Curtis Smith, one of the Negroes, had been smuggled away, hidden under hose in a fire truck. Vanges and Garvin Hardin, brothers, the other men arrested, had cleared themselves and were released, the officers insisted. However, the mob was not satisfied, and the attempt to force an entrance through the second story window followed. Some members of the mob expressed the belief that all three Negroes or at least Smith were being held in a room in a building near the jail.

While more than 1,000 persons were milling around the building, a group of about 100 men climbed to the roof of an adjoining building and placed a ladder across to a window of the City Hall in which the jail is located. When two of the leaders started across the ladder officers fired tear gas guns and the men retreated.

Martial law was proclaimed and guards placed over every hardware store in town. Steps were begun to disarm all citizens. A guard was thrown about the Negro quarter as a result of threats that homes would be burned. The Negroes were not much in evidence in downtown streets. They apparently anticipated an invasion as they immediately opened fire when the white mob appeared.

Troop B, Kansas National Guard, stationed here, called out a few hours before, arrived shortly after the shooting and assumed control. The men were carrying full war equipment and wearing steel helmets.

The crowd soon returned, some bearing shotguns. A fire hose strung through the City Hall as an aid in repulsing the attack was cut to shreds and carried away. Windows in several downtown business establishments were shattered by bullets.

Tear gas guns fired into the crowd yesterday apparently served only to increase the anger and feeling against the Negroes.

As the white members of the throng of 1,000 or more made a run to enter the Negro section, two Negroes were encountered in a dark doorway and a fist fight resulted in the Negroes being severely beaten. Other Negroes appeared and immediately opened fire.

### MAKING RIOTS POSSIBLE

"Black Belts" have again demonstrated their usefulness in encouraging riots. Last week trouble broke out in Coffeyville, Kan., in which a young woman claimed she had been assaulted. The men of the Race were immediately arrested, but before the mob could form two of them had been proved in-

nocent and released, and the other was spirited out of the county. The mob, undaunted, started its march on the "Black belt" with the avowed intention of "wiping it off the map." Only the ~~disorder~~ <sup>chaos</sup> shown by dwellers in that district prevented a wholesale carnage.

"Black belts" help riots. They make it possible for entire groups to be herded in one district and attacked at will. They help to align citizens in groups against one another. They stand out definitely as the greatest hindrance to complete co-operation and a friendly relationship between Americans of different races. They must be abolished. They obstruct the progress of a nation! We must live side by side—that is the only solution!

### THE KANSAS RIOT

IN COFFEYVILLE, Kansas, it was alleged that two white school girls had been attacked. Three colored boys were arrested on "suspicion." The news spread over the town and immediately a mob, estimated at from 1500 to 2000 wild men, was at the jail clamoring for the blood and lives of three innocent men who had not even been charged with a crime, but who were merely held "on suspicion."

The officers very properly refused to deliver the one prisoner they still held, two being absolved and discharged and sought to disperse a bloodthirsty, howling, riotous mob with toy tear bombs and streaming fire hose. Taunted but unarmed by the tear bombs and its ardor neither diminished nor dampened by the fire hose they discounted the former, destroyed the latter and, laughing in the faces of the puny officers or rather dummy officers of law and order in Coffeyville, the mob made its way to the "Black Belt," there to wreak and spend its vengeance upon innocent men, women and children.

But once within the confines of the "Black Belt" things began to happen. The Negroes of Coffeyville showed the police of Coffeyville and of the whole United States, for that matter, just how to handle a mob. There was hot shot from the cool citizens for the hot heads of the hoodlums. Cowards that they were, they fled precipitately, headlong, pell-mell in great disorder, licked, cowed, craven, defeated—and they never came back.

It seems as though the Negroes have learned a lesson from the riots of Atlanta, Springfield, East St. Louis, Tulsa, Washington, D. C., and Chicago, and are prepared to defend their homes against the illegal, wanton and malicious entry of riotous mobs when the police either are unable or disinclined to act.

Racial clashes are preventable if prompt, effective and heroic efforts are made at the outset to squelch the mob in its incipency. But it cannot be done with tolerance and dilatory tactics. The colored citizens of Coffeyville have shown the only way to handle a mob.



Riots-1927

Kansas.

# TEN IN CUSTODY AS COFFEYVILLE PROBE BEGINS

## Alleged Victims Are Still Unable To Identify Their 2 Assailants

COFFEYVILLE, Kan., April 13.—Two women and eight men were taken in custody Friday on charges of participating in the mob which attempted to attack the colored section of the town on March 18 after their unsuccessful rush on the jail to seize two assault suspects of color. The two young Caucasian school girls, alleged victims, have been unable to identify their assailants. Meanwhile, Vanges Harden, Carvin Harden and Curtis Smith, accused of the crime, were released after submitting alibis which the police believed.

### Women Released

The women arrested were Mrs. Della Kendrick and Mrs. Edith Porter. They posted bonds of \$800 each for appearance in District Court at the May term after being detained at police headquarters for two hours.

The eight men were: Harry Miller, Claude Sunners, James Davis, C. O. McInturf, Howard (Snake) Baumgardner, Billie Seaton and Dr. G. H. Batty.

### Nine More Warrants

Nine other warrants are in the hands of officers, who will serve the papers as soon as the defendants can be located. Although sixteen warrants were issued through the courts of Coffeyville, they came to naught, as all the cases were dismissed by Judge Baker.

It is expected that all those under bond will be tried by a jury made up of members picked from all over the county rather than from the city of Coffeyville alone, upon advice of County Attorney Mitchell and Judge Baker.

### Prosecution Aided

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White youths led over 1000 members of their race in the riot. The mob stormed the city jail in an effort to get Vanges Sarden, 20 years old; Carvin Harden, 22, and Curtis Smith who were held there on suspicion in connection with the attack, but were later released. Frustrated in their efforts to seize and lynch the suspects the whites broke into hardware stores and obtained firearms and attacked the colored section of the city, but were repelled by their intended victims.

Two colored persons, Herschel Ford, 50 years old, and Napoleon Anders, and two whites were wounded in the conflict. All are on the road to recovery.

Threats to bar colored children from the high school have ceased and peace restored, but additional police have been recruited for the police force to be held in readiness in case of another flare-up of the mob spirit.

# LAX OFFICIALS FIRED FOR RIOT AT COFFEYVILLE

## Citizens' Protests Result In Dismissal Of Prosecutor For Neglect Of Duty

COFFEYVILLE, Kan., May 18.—

The indignant protest of local citizens further strengthened by universal condemnation of weeklies and some few dailies has reacted favorably upon officials of this city. The reaction is seen in the extensive "house-cleaning" launched here which has for its objective the dismissal of the chief of police, the city prosecutor and other officials who were in office at the time of the riot.

It has been pointed out to fairer minds of the city that these officials through their lax administration of law and order were directly responsible for the unfortunate riots that gripped this city for more than a week.

### City Attorney Out

The first to feel the ax was Clement A. Reed, who was city attorney at the time of the riot. The new board of city commissioners appointed Walter S. Keith to succeed Reed. This move

followed closely a campaign and election in which the trouble over the report of two colored Americans attacking two white girls, the truth of which has never been founded was the principal issue.

Reed drew criticism for his laxity in pushing the prosecution. After promising the congregation of the Christian church, where he is a teacher of a Bible class, that he would discuss the riot to them and reveal some startling facts; he failed to say anything concerning the incident when the time came. Reed in one statement declared that reports about men of color attacking the Caucasian girls were untrue, but he also failed to support this statement.

### To Drop All Police

Among the others to go under the axe were Carl Patteck, city clerk; C. P. Cathers, chief of police and three members of the police force at the time of the riot will gradually be dropped. Patteck, who was city clerk for eight years, was succeeded by A. P. Irvin; Cathers was succeeded by Earl Hackney.

Demands that more earnest efforts be made to prosecute those upon whom responsibility for the laxity show in face of the riot led up to the house-cleaning in the city administration. In the recent election the successful element took the stand that the investigation of the riot had not been carried out thoroughly and had been dropped prematurely. The colored citizens figured prominently in the election and the results which followed.

### STAR

*Portsmouth - Va*  
MAR 26 1927

### MOBS.

Coffeyville, Kansas, is the latest stage for the perennial American tragedy of mob law. The hysteria of Coffeyville is only another proof that mobs and their doings are the sole property of no particular section of the United States. The heartening feature of the Kansas case is that officers of the law appear to have succeeded in holding off the would-be lynchers of a suspected assailant of two girls until he could be identified. The victims were unable to say that he was their assailant and he was freed.

Thus was Coffeyville saved the embarrassment inseparable from lynching the wrong man. Accuracy is extremely desirable in such matters. It cannot be said that the town was saved anything on the score of its reputation for law and order, since a full-fledged race riot was the aftermath of the futile effort to storm the City Hall, which was badly wrecked, and only the prompt appearance of the militia saved a bad situation.

Deplorable as are these exhibitions of barbaric blood lust, aroused by revolting crimes, even though they are, there is a sameness about them all, whether they occur in Chicago, Atlanta, St. Louis, or in the State that is associated with the exploits of John Brown. Human nature is very much the same North and South. Crime of a certain type always stirs a desire for swift vengeance. Self restraint under such conditions is the test of a community's respect for law.

More and more there is growing up in all sections of the country the feeling that mob law is a mistake, a grievous blot on the reputation of the people any element of whom flout the orderly processes of justice and take vengeance into their own hands. There have been too many cases where innocent men,

white and black, have been saved from too swift justice by timely discovery of evidence that exonerated them for apologists for lynch law to be able to make out a case.

The inescapable effects of mob violence are that the dignity of the law is dragged in the mire, bad feeling is generated and what little deterrent may be exercised upon those inclined to commit similar crimes is offset by the permanent damage done to the cause of law and order. Thus the practice defeats its own purpose.

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If every time an outrage were committed by a white man the white population were to be held responsible there would be endless turmoil. The guilty negroes should be found and all the power of

WILD FURY OF  
KANSAS MOB  
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OGDEN CITY  
UTAH,  
ISSUE OF  
MAR 22 1927



# TEN IN CUSTODY AS COFFEYVILLE PROBE BEGINS

## Alleged Victims Are Still Unable To Identify Their 2 Assailants

COFFEYVILLE, Kan., April 13.—Two women and eight men were taken in custody Friday on charges of participating in the mob which attempted to attack the colored section of the town on March 22 after their unsuccessful run for the jail to seize two white suspects of a crime. The two young Caucasian school girls, alleged victims, have been unable to identify their assailants. Meanwhile, Vanges Harden, Carvin Harden and Curtis Smith, accused of the crime, were released after submitting alibis which the police believed.

### Women Released

The women arrested were Mrs. Della Kendrick and Mrs. Edith Porter. They posted bonds of \$800 each for appearance in District Court at the May term after being detained at police headquarters for two hours.

The eight men were: Harry Miller, Claude Sumner, James Davis, C. O. McInturf, Howard (Snake) Banngardner, Billie Seaton and Dr. G. H. Batty.

### Nine More Warrants

Nine other warrants are in the hands of officers, who will serve the papers as soon as the defendants can be located. Although sixteen warrants were issued through the courts of Coffeyville, they came to naught, as all the cases were dismissed by Judge Baker.

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More and more there is growing up in all sections of the country the feeling that mob law is a mistake, a grievous blot on the reputation of the people any element of whom flout the orderly processes of justice and take vengeance into their own hands. There have been too many cases where innocent men, white and black, have been saved from too swift justice by timely discovery of evidence that exonerated them for apologists for lynch law to be able to make out a case.

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### OGDEN CITY UTAH,

ISSUE OF  
MAR 22 1927



## KANSAS CITY

MISSOURI

### The Coffeyville Mob.

The Coffeyville, Kas., mob which assembled following an attack on two white girls by three Negro men Friday morning showed with humiliating thoroughness the viciousness of race hatred.

It is almost certain that only the alertness of national guardsmen and local law enforcement officials prevented the murder of innocent persons. As it was, one man was shot, one was trampled upon, two were beaten, stores were looted and property was destroyed.

Though they believe they want the enforcement of justice, what lynchers really desire is blood. This fact was clearly evident in the Coffeyville incident. Three suspects had been arrested and found innocent. Nevertheless, if they had not been released in time, they undoubtedly would have been lynched or killed in some other cruel fashion.

The behavior of the mob after it was discovered that its intended victims were gone was typical. The rioters threatened to burn the courthouse, an act which would have been wholly pointless, and then marched upon the Negro quarter with the evident intention of wreaking vengeance upon inhabitants of that place, regardless of lack of responsibility for the attack on the white girls. If authorities had not gotten control of the situation, innocent lives both white and black, probably would have been lost.

The motive of the disorder was race hatred. Nothing else can explain it. The attack on the white girls was merely an incident which gave opportunity to express that hatred. Otherwise, the mob would not have attempted to march against all the Negroes in Coffeyville.

It was a humiliating affair which served to prove once again that mob rule is the worst possible way to attempt the solution of any social problem.

CLARION-LEDGER  
JACKSON, MISS.

MAR 30 1927

### Respect the Law

Coffeyville, Kansas is the latest stage done to the cause of law and order. Thus for the perennial American tragedy of the practice defeats its own purpose. mob law. The hysteria of Coffeyville is only another proof that mobs and their doings are the sole property of no particular section of the United States. The heartening feature of the Kansas case is that officers of the law appear to have succeeded in holding off the would-be lynchers of a suspected assailant of two girls until he could be identified. The victims were unable to say that he was their assailant and he was freed.

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The inescapable effects of mob violence are that the dignity of the law is dragged in the mire, bad feeling is generated and what little deterrent may be exercised upon those inclined to commit similar crimes is offset by the permanent damage

### TELEGRAPH

### LYNCH LAW FOLLY

At Coffeyville, Kan., the last of last week a mob tried to go through the motions of wanting to lynch a negro in jail there who had been arrested as a suspect after two high school girls had been the victim of the attack. It turned out afterward that the two girls said the negro was the wrong man, which goes to show again the folly of lynch law.

## OKLAHOMA CITY

OKLA.

ISSUE OF

MAR 21 1927

### A Kansas Race Riot

JOHN BROWN of Ossawatimie died a disturbing trouble maker or a martyr, as you will. At least, he struggled to make Kansas a free state. Foes of slavery came in dominating numbers from New England and other northern states. There, if anywhere, should be freedom from racial prejudice and friendship for the negro. Yet Coffeyville is the scene of the latest race riot, demonstrating that such disturbances are not a sectional evil.

Capable peace officers and the early mobilization of troops limited the scope and damage of the Coffeyville outbreak, yet that city bears the shame due any community that yields to mob law. But the negroes and particularly the leaders of the negroes should not forget that it was crime perpetrated by members of their race that precipitated the riot. Good behavior is best for all races. It amounts almost to an essential protective measure for the negroes. Mob law is indefensible, but there are offenses that engender it as surely as fire means heat. Prompt action by competent officers may curb it, but for the negroes there is no shield comparable to righteous conduct.

### TIMES

ROANOKE, VA.

MAR 31 1927

### RACE RIOTING IN KANSAS.

If the race riot in Kansas, which necessitated the calling out of the national guard, had occurred in any southern community the South would have been denounced for indulging in an outbreak against the negroes.

The South does not approve of lynching or of race riots. The South is as much opposed to mob rule as any other section of the Nation. But the South does object to being made the target of abuse for mob outbreaks when other sections are equally as guilty.

It is a fact that southern mobs rarely prey upon innocent negroes. The lynchings that unfortunately occur in the South claim only the perpetrators of heinous crimes. In the North and West, hatred is directed against the negro population as a whole. Mobs in those sections are not content to punish the guilty but vent their rage against all negroes.

The South is not proud of its lynching and race riot record. Yet it is no worse than any other section. In many respects its record is far better, for the negro population is large and the chance for crime far greater.—Lynchburg Advance.

MAR 21 1927

Out in Kansas where, when hell is raised there is usually an over-production, (to use the words of William Allen White) a Negro was held in jail suspected of being one of three Negroes who at-

tacked two white girls. A mob of 2,000 men stormed the jail and broke all the windows out of the City Hall. Clever officers placed him under a pile of hose in a fire truck and sped him away, where he was later found to be innocent. Some day the crimes of mobs will be looked upon and dealt with exactly as the crimes of those whom the mobs seek. Georgia is blazing the trial and setting the pace.

Discrimination



Riots-1927

Kansas.

NEW YORK  
Mail & Eve. Telegram

BROOKLYN TIMES

MAR 29 1927

## Some of the Posse that Caught White Girl Attackers



—P. & A. Photo

Race feeling ran high in Coffeyville, Kansas, and crowds of whites were on the verge of lynching several negroes charged with attacking white high school girls. The photograph shows throngs of pedestrians when the prisoners were taken. The autos were in the capturing posse.

NEW YORK TIMES

MAR 19 1927

## Two Persons Injured in Kansas Race Riot; Coffeyville Aflame Over Negroes, Militia Out

COFFEYVILLE, Kan., March 18 (AP).—

A race war broke out here late tonight when a mob of white persons, who had besieged the city jail in an effort to seize three negroes arrested in connection with an assault on two white girls, attempted to invade the negro quarter.

The whites were repulsed, and at least two persons were injured, one being slightly wounded.

The armed clash came after a group of white youths had kicked in the door of a hardware store and obtained arms and ammunition. About 100 shots were exchanged.

William Waddle, 17, white, was taken to a hospital with buckshot in his legs and a revolver wound in his hand. He was in the line of fire and was not accompanying those who had started into the negro region.

The other injured man was R. C. Wilton, 45, owner of the Acme Foundry. He was trampled by the mob when the thousand rioters rushed for safety after the firing.

The rioters had been roused to anger by the use of tear gas by the police holding the City Hall.

Martial law was proclaimed and guards were placed over every hardware store in town, and steps were begun to disarm all citizens.

A guard was thrown about the negro quarter as a result of threats that homes would be burned.

The negroes were not much in evidence on downtown streets. They apparently had expected an invasion of their district, as they opened fire when the white mob appeared.

Troop B, Kansas National Guard Unit, stationed here, called out a few hours before, arrived soon after the shooting occurred, and for the time being assumed control of the situation.

The crowd soon returned, some bearing shotguns, and more trouble was feared before daybreak.

A fire hose strung through the City Hall as an aid in repulsing the attack on the jail was cut to shreds and carried away.

The attack on the girls occurred in an unlighted room, and police said positive identification of the assailants might prove difficult. The girls reported they had scratched one of their assailants on the face and neck, and one of them said she bit the finger of another. The police refused to disclose whether the prisoners bore any

marks of the struggle. The girls were alone in the house when the negroes entered through a window.

TOPEKA, Kan., March 18 (AP).—Three units of the National Guard were called tonight by Governor Paulen to assist civil authorities at Coffeyville, in answer to a request made by Sheriff Walter McCrabb and the Mayor of the city.

# TOWN UNDER MARTIAL LAW AS SHOTS AND GAS BOMBS SUBDUE VENGEFUL CROWDS

## City Hall Windows Smashed as Throng Fights to Reach Jail for Negro Accused by Two School Girls.

By the United Press.

COFFEYVILLE, Kan., Saturday.—Coffeyville was under martial law today after a night of terror, in which troops subdued a race riot and repulsed a mob which attacked the City Hall in an attempt to lynch Curtis Smith, negro, arrested in connection with

assaults on two high school girls.

The situation was still tense today, but with reinforcements for the troops arriving authorities were believed to be in control of the situation.

Three persons were reported to have been wounded during the turbulent night. All the windows in the City Hall were smashed, and tear bombs were used to fight the mob when it forced its way to a stairway inside the City Hall leading to the jail on an upper floor.

Shortly after midnight the crowd began to disperse. Sheriff's deputies and troopers from the local cavalry unit still patrolled the streets to guard against recurrence of rioting.

### Negroes Keep Out of Sight.

Negro residents kept out of sight through most of the night, but a group appeared at one time across the street from the City Hall and clashed with members of the white mob. A score of shots were fired before troops broke up the fight.

The crowd gathered around the jail early in the evening after Smith and two other negroes were arrested in connection with assaults on Margaret Akers and Julia Mooney. Both girls were attacked in their homes while their parents were away.

Bloodhounds led police and deputies to the three negroes. Two were released after questioning, but Smith was held. He denied he was involved in the assaults.

Sheriff W. D. McCrabb and his deputies, assisted by police, kept guard at the combined City Hall and jail as the crowd grew and became more restive. Later he called on Captain G. W. Noel, Commander of the Coffeyville Cavalry unit of the National Guard, for aid. Only thirty-two members of the cavalry unit reported for duty. Sheriff McCrabb deputized all available citizens and appealed to Governor Paulen for more troops. A detachment was sent from Yates Centre in motor cars, while Troop B, of the 117th Cavalry, National Guard, was being mobilized at Independence to entrain for Coffeyville.

### Crowd Quiets Somewhat.

Shortly afterward martial law was proclaimed on orders from the State Adjutant General's office. The clamoring crowd quieted somewhat when Captain Noel read the proclamation, and some members drifted away.

Automobiles were running wild throughout the little city. A hardware store was broken into and all its guns and ammunition appropriated by the mob. Three persons were arrested.

R. C. Walden, foreman of the Acme Tank Car Company, was taken to a hospital with a dislocated shoulder after one of the numerous minor clashes that marked the night. Thomas Waddle, seventeen, was reported to have been shot in the hand and legs. A third man, whose name could not be learned, was said to have been injured.

The mob gradually dispersed as dawn approached but troops and deputies remained on guard, fearing a new attack this morning.



MAR 19 1927

# 1,000 MEN AND WOMEN STORM JAIL TO SEIZE NEGROES IN RACE RIOT

**Coffeyville, Kan., Under Martial Law After Attack on Two Girls—Hounds Lead Crowd to Suspects**

**Firing Starts When Whites Enter Section Occupied by Blacks—Two Are Wounded—Militia Calms Mob**

COFFEYVILLE, Kan., March 19 (A. P.)—A race riot in which two persons were injured when a mob of more than 1,000 men and women stormed the City Jail in an effort to remove three Negroes held for attacking two white girls was under control to-day with national guardsmen patrolling the streets to enforce military rule.

Infuriated by reports of the attack on the girls yesterday afternoon, groups of men followed officers about the city in the search for the Negroes. Bloodhounds soon took up a trail that led to a frame house. A large crowd surrounded the building, which officers announced was vacant in an effort to disperse the mob.

The rush failed and after reinforcements arrived the officers escorted three Negroes from the house. By moving slowly through the crowd they took the prisoners to the City Jail without incident.

Women and children joined the crowd at the jail where youths, encouraged

by older persons, started stoning it. Police and Sheriff's deputies were posted at all entrances and spokesmen for the authorities attempted to persuade the crowd to disperse.

**INVADE NEW QUARTER**  
When leaders of the mob were informed that the Negroes were not in the jail, groups left the throng to invade the Negro quarter, where upwards of 4,000 colored persons live. Several fist fights occurred between whites and blacks and sporadic firing began.

William Waddle, seventeen, a printer's apprentice, was struck in the legs by a charge of buckshot and received a pistol bullet through an arm. The shots were fired by Negroes who came to the rescue of one of their race who had been severely beaten. R. C. Walton, forty-five, a foundry foreman, was injured in the rush to safety as the firing increased.

As Waddle hurried through the streets to his office, many saw the blood from his wounds, and men rushed to hardware stores to obtain guns and ammunition. When they found the doors locked, they broke into the stores and obtained shotguns and ammunition.

Troop B, local National Guard Cavalry, appeared during the firing. The forty-odd men of the troop scattered through the streets wearing steel helmets and full war equipment. The sight of the soldiers had a quieting effect on many of the mob, but others jeered. Many windows were shattered by stray bullets.

**TROOPS MOUNT GUARD**  
Soldiers mounted guard over hardware stores and the whites deserted the Negro quarter to return to the jail. A fire hose strung through the City Hall to aid in repulsing attacks on the jail was cut up and carried away.

Officers told the mob that two of the Negroes had been exonerated and released, while the third, Curtis Smith, thirty-three, had been removed from the jail on the fire truck which brought the hose.

Youths led by men then rushed for filling stations to obtain gasoline to set fire to the jail. The stations had been closed and they returned empty handed. An American flag was then

displayed from a City Hall window. The mob jeered. Messages from State officials imploring the people to avoid bloodshed met with similar response.

Word was received that Company A of Iola and Company G, Yates Centre, units of the 117th Cavalry, Kansas National Guard, had been mobilized and would arrive this morning.

**COFFEYVILLE RIOT CASES  
CLOSED ELISHA SCOTT  
TELLS N. A. A. C. P.**

New York, Sept. 30—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue, has received a report from its attorney in Kansas, Elisha Scott, stating that Coffeyville Riot cases are now "closed," the cases against the two colored men accused "incited" the riot, first dismissed by the State, have now been dismissed by the city.

Mr. Scott reports that after the State of Kansas lost its case against Ira Kennedy and Juia Mooney, public sentiment changed materially in favor of the two colored men, Anderson and Ford. Through the work of the N. A. A. C. P. and the cooperating white citizens, a situation was brought about whereby the County Attorney made a motion to dismiss the Ander and Ford cases and this riotion was sustained. Mr. Scott's report continues: *10-8-27*

"That closed the Coffeyville riot cases, in so far as our organization is concerned, I understand it. There is yet pending, however, a case of the City of Coffeyville against Napoleon Anderson for discharging fire arms in the City of Coffeyville, on the night of the riot. As you will appreciate, the City will file that case and obtain a conviction in the lower court, in order that they may help out their civil case, in which Anderson is suing the City for the sum of \$10,000. I am going to assist the defense in that case, at the instance of of the local organization."

# TEN FACE PRISON ON COFFEYVILLE RIOTING CHARGE

**Two Girls Among Those Arrested Are Released Under \$800 Bonds Each. Will Face Court In May**

**TO SEEK TRIAL BY JURY.  
SELECTED FROM COUNTY**

**Colored Citizens To Aid Prosecution In Case. Fail To Capture Alleged Assailant of Girls.**

(Special to the St. Louis Argus)  
COFFEYVILLE, Kan., April 6—Two white women and eight white men were arrested here Friday on charges of participating in the mob, which attacked the colored section of the city and stormed the City Jail March 18, following a report that two white girls had been attacked by Negroes. To date the girls who brought the attack charges have been unable to identify any of the suspects brought before them as their assailants, and the theory that white men with blackened faces and hands committed the crime is stronger than ever.

**Women Post Bonds**  
The women arrested were Mrs. Delia Kendrick and Mrs. Edith Porter. They posted bonds of \$500 each for appearance in district court at the May term after being detained at police headquarters for two hours.

The eight men were Harry Miller, Claude Sunners, James Davis, C. O. McInturf, Howard (Snake) Baumgardner, Billie Seaton and Dr. G. H. Batty. All the men excepting Baumgardner posted bond and were released. Baumgardner was locked up in default of bond.

Three other whites, who were previously arrested on warrants returnable in the court of Coffeyville and held in jail at Independence on mob charges

are Frank Peterson, Joe Carson and George Rowlett. They were served with warrants returnable in district court Friday and left in jail.

**Sixteen Released**  
Nine other warrants are in the hands of officers who will serve the papers as soon as the defendants can be located. Although sixteen warrants were issued through the Courts of Coffeyville, they came to naught, as all the cases were dismissed by Judge Baker.

It is expected that all those under bond will be tried by a jury made up of members picked from all over the county rather than from the city of Coffeyville alone, upon advice of County Attorney Mitchell and Judge Baker.

**Negroes To Aid Prosecution**  
The county will bring charges from the standpoint of inciting riot and attacking county officers. Colored citizens have raised \$500 to prosecute the case.

The mob was started by the report that two high school girls, one 19 years old and the other 17, had been held in their room early Friday morning and attacked by three "Negroes."

White youths led over 1000 members of their race in the riot. The mob stormed the city jail in an effort to get Vanges Harden, 20 years old, Carvin Harden, 22, and Curtis Smith who were held there on suspicion in connection with the attack, but were later released. Frustrated in their efforts to seize and lynch the suspects the whites broke into hardware stores and obtained fire arms and attacked the colored section of the city, but were repelled by their intended victims.

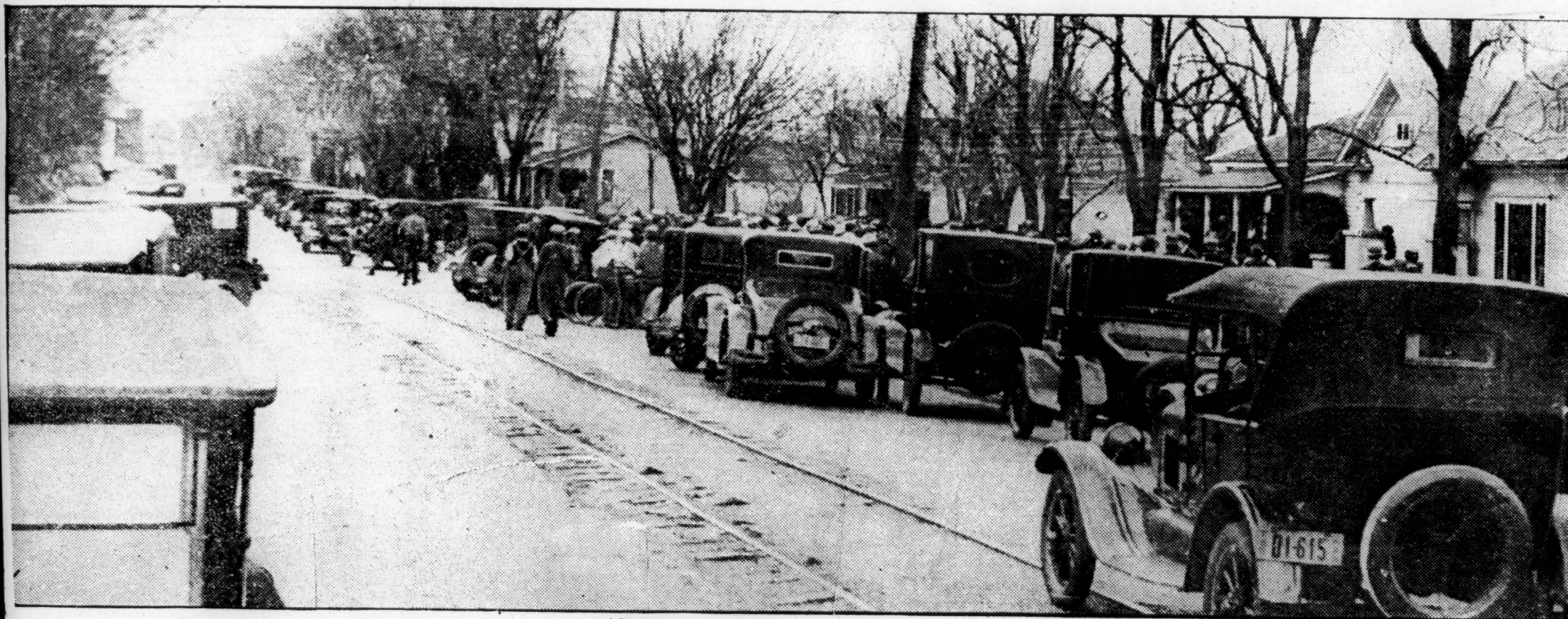
Two colored persons, Herschel Ford, 50 years old and Napoleon Andersn, and two whites were wounded in the conflict. All are on the road to recovery.

Threats to bar colored children from

In the Republic of Haiti, with its area of 10,000 square miles, there are more than 100 species of trees, ranging from the high school have ceased and peace restored, but additional police have been recruited for the police force to



## Race Feeling Flames High as Attackers of White Girls Are Taken



**ANGRY CROWDS** were on verge of lynching three Coffeyville, Kan., colored men charged with attacking two white high school girls. This shows throng of pedestrians and motorists when men were taken. Autos were in posse that made captures.

**Name Prominent White Youths** damage suits amounting to \$35,000. Members of prominent white families and some officials have been named in connection with the crime, but the most of those who were arrested have been released and none have been sentenced.

**Seek Vindication of Race Of Charge Of Crime That Resulted In Race Riot Mar. 18**

**Guilt Of Whites In Ruse That Threw Blame Upon Race**

**PETITIONS CIRCULATED; WHITE YOUTHS ACCUSED Evidence Pointing Towards**

### Demand Probe

COFFEYVILLE, Kans., May 6.—Vigorous and unrelenting demands for an investigation of the story of two white girls of an attack upon them by three Negroes, which resulted in a race riot here March 18, became more tense here Tuesday when petitions were circulated urging a grand jury probe of the incident.

Colored citizens of Coffeyville have been the principal exponents of the proposal that a searching inquiry be made of the girls' story. Colored citizens, as well as whites, believe that the assault upon the girls was really committed by white youth, who blackened up so as to look like Negroes and throw blame for the crime upon the race. Negroes are urging the investigation because they feel that it will mean a vindication of the members of the race.

Nearly a thousand dollars has been raised by the colored inhabitants of Coffeyville to help push the prosecution in the case.

It has been pointed out by authorities that all things indicate that the attack might have been committed by whites. One of the most convincing evidences was the finding of soot smeared on the bed clothes in the girls' room. It has also been pointed out that the alleged attack occurred in the girls' room sometime before dawn and that they would have hardly been able to distinguish blackened faced white youths from Negroes.

### Law Takes Little Action

Last week three colored persons, who were injured by the rioters, filed



A column of constructive criticism of men and measurer in the hope of correcting errors and evils.

Now it is revealed that the recent Coffeyville, Kansas race riot was caused by a white girl's lie. Daily papers admit that that after carrying on improper relations with a married man of her own race that she screamed out that she had been "attacked" by "three Negroes." The whole town of Coffeyville was thrown in pandemonium, four persons were injured and in order to prevent wholesale bloodshed it was necessary to call in the militia and declare martial law.

Many innocent men of our race have been lynched and barbarously handled because of some white villian's lie and the south now learns of its manifold mistakes only after its hands are stained with human blood but it never repents. We have prayed and petitioned long enough and only charred and bleeding bodies have mocked our prayers. After much suffering and patience it seems that the people of the south ought to put a stop to lynchings and we believe that a little more courage and militancy on our parts would either bring it to a stop or force the Government to intervene. In the long run we will be compelled to either stand and fight for our right or die like dogs. When appeals to the conscience fail then appeals to force should be used. Life is hardly worth living anyway with the torch and the rope hanging over us, menacing us, and we know that it will be used without provocation whenever a white girl lies about us.

## White Rapists Not Black Caused Coffeyville Riot

NEW YORK—Charges made by Attorney Elisha Scott, retained by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in May, to the effect that white rapists not colored were responsible for the race riot of March 18 in Coffeyville, Kan., are now admitted in a front-page display story in the Coffeyville Daily Journal of May 30, which says:

"Whites—not Negroes—were the bedfellows of Julia Mooney and Margaret Akers, Coffeyville high school girls, the night of March 17, the black letter night in the city's history which led up to rioting, mob violence and bloodshed, if prosecutions started by the state are based on justice."

As early as May 11, in response to telegraphic appeal from the Coffeyville Branch, the National Office of the N. A. A. C. P. wired Attorney Elisha Scott, asking him to go at once to Coffeyville. Mr. Scott on May 15 reported to the N. A. A. C. P.:

"This case is of unusual importance because the Negroes made a stand, turned back the mob and saved the property of our folks. And it is a fact without dispute that these two white girls that I might have named, were not assaulted by Negroes."

Mr. Scott, retained by the N. A. A. C. P., has undertaken the defense of two colored men, Anderson and Ford, who are charged with firing into the mob which ran riot in the Negro district. All of the white people arrested in connection with the rioting have been discharged. The N. A. A. C. P. is financing the case.

According to the Coffeyville Daily Journal Ira Kennedy, white, former automobile salesman, has been arrested charged with rape, and one of the school girl "victims", Julia Mooney, is held charged with being an accessory to the attack upon her friend Margaret Akers.

"At least two other white men will be arrested, according to semi-official predictions," reports the Coffeyville Daily Journal. "It is also rumored that persons alleged to have offered to use money in advertising the course of justice will feel the heavy hand of the law."

In the course of the riot, which followed the assault upon the white girls a number of Negroes were brutally assaulted and beaten by the white mob, one at least being left for dead.

Mr. Scott's report to the N. A. A. C. P. says in part: "The record shows that a white boy was shot through the hand and one fell to the ground and his shoulder was dislocated and was beaten, but our investigation shows from rumor that can be relied upon, that at least three white men were killed, probably more."

The mob fired upon by colored men defending themselves "was stopped before they reached Anderson's Pool Hall."

## WHAT A GOVERNOR!

Sam A. Baker, with a record of nothing done hitherto, says he will investigate his third lynching.

### MOBS COVER GUILT'S TRAIL

Every time a mob kills an alleged rapist, who is innocent, it actually encourages the violation of women, because all effort at finding the guilty stops with the lynching. Once any victim suffers, the officers of the law instead of searching further, act with the community in protecting the lynchers. A regular court trial is the best machinery yet contrived for finding out facts. On the other hand, mobs that commit murder, actually foster rape by making easy the escape of the real rapist whenever they lynch suspects who are innocent. The Missouri mobs at Columbia and Excelsior Springs illustrate our point. They are proved to have killed innocent men, and with death ended all effort to find the men guilty of the rape alleged.

It is very different when no blood is shed. Then the law continues to demand a prisoner and his punishment. Coffeyville, a Kansas community which failed to shed innocent Negro blood recently, only because the Negroes prepared to fight, now arrests whites and exposes their conspiracy to shift the blame. The guilty in this case may now be found and punished.

Lynching with its aftermath of officials conniving with lynchers offers not one single advantage over regular court trial, when the accused is guilty. The horror of it beggars language when its victim is innocent. The logic and the facts are against mob judgment and mob action. Every time it is investigated, as now in Coffeyville, its existence becomes more intolerable. Common sense condemns displacing the law and its impartial investigations, in favor of cowards seeking excitement, relatives demanding vengeance or public officials following the easy course to popular favor.

# KAN. RIOT ARRESTS CONTINUE

## Thirty-Year-Old White Shoe Salesman Taken As Girl's Attacker. Hearing Is Set For June 18

(Special to the Argus)

COFFEYVILLE, Kans., June 15.—The third arrest to be made in connection with the race riot which took place here March 18, occurred last Saturday when Frank Attebury, a white shoe salesman of Independence, Kans., was taken into custody by police. Attebury is being held with Julia Mooney, 19-year-old white high school girl and Ira Kennedy, 30-year-old white automobile salesman of Wichita, Kans., on a charge of complicity in a purported attack on two white girls by three colored youths March 17.

### Girl Confesses

Kennedy was arrested in Wichita, May 30. His arrest followed an investigation of the riot in which it is said that Margaret Aikers, 17-year-old white high school girl, confessed that she and the Mooney girl entertained a number of white men in their rooms on the night of March 17, and that they formulated the attack story and placed the guilt upon Negroes to clear themselves of their misconduct. Miss Mooney was also arrested. Both were granted bails of \$20,000 each.

### To Be Tried June 18

Kennedy has been returned to this city where he will have a preliminary hearing on June 18.

Attebury was arrested here after a conference in which he was questioned by R. W. Davis, detective, and city officials. He is alleged to be a close friend of Kennedy. He is said to have a wife and children living in another state, and is 30 years old.

### Suits Total \$70,000

Damage suits aggregating \$70,000 have been filed by colored citizens who were injured during the riot, which resulted from the whites' alleged false story. Negroes of Coffeyville are pushing the prosecution in the case and hope to clear the race of the guilt which has been placed upon it by the incident.



Riots - 1927

## KANSAS TOWN IS PLACED UNDER MILITARY LAW

### Four Injured In Race Clash When White Girls Report Attack by Race Men

Coffeyville, aKns.—Coffeyville is again under military law following rumors that another race riot is pending.

*Herald Comm. W. 3-26-27*  
Friday was a day and night of terror, during which time guns, rocks and clubs were freely used during the race riot between colored and white citizens. The militia, co-operating with the civil authorities, clamped down the lid on Coffeyville to prevent a recurrence of Friday's rioting in which four persons were injured and the City Hall stoned by mobs.

Two white girls, Julia Mooney and Margaret Akers, were assaulted by unknown persons. Excited whites placed the blame on three colored men and sought to take vengeance on the whole Negro population.

Three colored men were arrested, but all released when excited girls failed to identify them.

**NEWS  
BELOIT, WIS.**

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Officers had caught a negro accused of serious crime. A mob threatened violence. The authorities spirited the prisoner away to another town.

Foiled of its prey, the crazed crowd obtained firearms and rushed into the negro section of the town, bent on clearing out the whole colored population. Natural resistance there and an exchange of shots, resulting in one member of the mob being wounded, fanned fury to molten heat.

The dispatch of militia fortunately prevented more casualties. But the stigma of shame for such a blind, unreasoning outbreak remains vividly branded upon the community where it occurred.

Kansas

## WHITES NOT NEGROES COMMITTED ASSAULTS CAUSING RIOT; BELIEF

### Sheriff Advances Theory A Gang Of White Morons Disguised By Blackening Up and Did Crime.

### GIRLS FAIL TO IDENTIFY ANY OF SUSPECTS HELD

### Colored Citizens Launch A Move To Prosecute Riot- ers. Hope To Find Per- petrators Of Crime.

(Special to St. Louis Argus)

**COFFEYVILLE, Kans., Mar. 24.**—With the failure of authorities here to apprehend Negro attackers of Julia Mooney, 19 years old, and Margaret Aker, 17, white girls who have lived in a house here by themselves, and the theory advanced by Sheriff W. B. McCrabb that the attack was committed by white men with blackened faces, it is thought that colored Americans are altogether innocent of the crime. Double efforts are now being made to unravel the mystery on the part of the colored citizens who feel that their race has suffered great injustice, not only on the part of their wholesale mistreatment for a crime which three criminals are said to have committed, but for a crime for which members of their race are not even guilty.

*City Under Guard*  
Although the bitterness of feeling between the races, which grew out of the crime, resulting in a clash in which four persons were seriously hurt and thousands of dollars in property damage done, appears to have subsided, guardsmen will patrol the streets until Saturday night it was declared Wednesday. A ten o'clock closing order in effect since the riot will also stand.

Eighteen warrants have been issued charging white and colored persons with participation in the riot

according to C. W. Mitchell, county attorney. The city will conduct an inquiry from the standpoint of property damage and the county from the standpoint of inciting a riot and attacking county officers, according to the officials. Popular subscription is expected to augment \$300 offered for the arrest and conviction of the assailants. Negro residents are raising a fund of \$250, and the American Legion one of \$1,000.

### Four Seriously Hurt

Two colored citizens and two whites were injured in the riot; the former being Herschel Ford, 50, janitor, shot through the hip, and Napoleon Anderson, billiard hall proprietor, shot through the legs; the latter, Billy Waddles, 17, printer's apprentice left hand amputated, and R. C. Walden, machine shop foreman, dislocated shoulder.

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Youths led over 1000 whites in the riot. They attempted to get Vanges Harden 20 years old, Carvin Harden, 22, and Curtis Smith, 30, from the city jail where they were held on suspicion in connection with the attack, and were later released. Hardware stores were broken open by whites to obtain fire-arms and the Negro section of the city attacked. The attack was repulsed by the colored citizens, however, and National Guards arrived in time to prevent any fatalities.

Threats were made Tuesday to prevent colored students from attending the high school and to burn the section in which they live, but nothing was done.

## World War Prisoners Freed, 24th Men Rot In Pen

*after*  
**LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS.**—All prisoners convicted of any military offense committed during the World War have been freed except those members of the 24th U. S. Infantry charged with rioting at Houston, Texas.

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This startling statement is contained in an unsigned letter written by these former members of the 24th Infantry which was smuggled out of the penitentiary to a correspondent in Los Angeles, Cal. In 1923 these alleged rioters had their sentences reduced from life to 30 years but the writer of this letter complains that any sentence at all is unjust. His letter reads as follows:

*Baltimore*  
"Leavenworth Prison, ... This will be a surprise to you, and writing in behalf of the members of the Houston rioters serving thirty years. We were cut from life to thirty years, on the pretext of being more guilty. We are not and can prove it. The pretext is even unreasonable. They moved us from the Federal Prison to the Military Prison to serve thirty years! This was done so we could not write out and explain our case. Now for God's sake, believe me. I take and slip this out to you. I would not do that for nothing. Our mail going to the N. A. A. C. P. was stopped last year we have lost hope of ever getting out! Please get some one to help us out there. Can't you get the club women, ex-service men, and fraternal leaders to get up a petition, send it to Mrs. Kahn and request her to send it to the President?"

"There is no evidence to prove that we are more guilty than the men released."

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"Have them present these facts and anything else they see fit. Please accept this from man to man, and consider our circumstances. For God's sake help us; this place is killing us!"

### BROOKLYN STANDARD UNION

MAR 19 1927

## KANSAS RACE RIOT CALLS OUT TROOPS; LYNCHING AVERTED

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The situation was still tense to-day, but the reinforcements for the troops arriving authorities were believed to be in control of the situation. Three persons were reported to have been wounded during the turbulent night. All the windows in the city hall were smashed and tear bombs were used to fight the mob when it forced its way to a stairway inside the city hall, leading to the jail on an upper floor.

Negro residents kept out of sight through most of the night, but a group appeared at one time across the street from the city hall, and clashed with members of the white mob. A score of shots were fired before troops broke up the fight. The crowd gathered around the jail early in the evening after Smith and two other negroes were arrested in connection with the assaults. Bloodhounds led police and deputies to the three negroes. Two were released after questioning, but Smith was held. He denied he was involved in the assaults.



## THE COFFEYVILLE CASE

As this is written, troops are in charge at Coffeyville, Kan., following a race riot in which three persons were injured when a mob stormed the jail in an attempt to get a colored man from the officers who had him in custody.

The reason this is significant is because the man sought by the mob is now free. He could not be identified as the attacker of two girls who were mistreated by a colored man eight hours before. In fact, the man offered an alibi and the girls were unable to identify him.

Here is a typical case of near-lynching which justifies the protest against mob law which is so frequently made by intelligent citizens. It is quite probable the man whom the mob sought to hang was innocent of the charge against him. It is certain that he could never be convicted in a court of law, and that there was even no presumption of guilt or probable cause evident. He was merely unfortunate enough to be under arrest when the mob went forth to wreak its vengeance. That he escaped was largely due to the courage of the officers and the honesty of the girls.

Mob violence to Negroes is sufficiently common to arouse a savage rebellion against the injustice of it in the hearts of humanitarians, but it is not often that a mob is foiled as completely and its hysterical reasoning as starkly exposed as in the Coffeyville case. The troops will probably be able to keep order in the city, and even if prosecution of the mob leaders and members is difficult, there should be sufficient shame in the Kansas town to make it forever after be wary of any suggestion that it indulge in a lynching bee or that it interfere with the orderly process of the law.

Mob violence is always tragic and disgraceful. Occasionally, as in the Coffeyville case, it is self-revealing.

## NEW YORK GRAPHIC

## 1,000 Mob Prison To Lynch Negro; Martial Law Rules

COFFEYVILLE, KAN., March 19 (By U. P.).—Martial law is in force here today. An infuriated mob of 1,000 is attempting to break into the City Hall to capture and lynch Curtis Smith, a negro, suspected of assaulting two high school girls.

Capt. G. W. Noel of the local cavalry received the martial law orders from the adjutant general's office. They were read to the mob of whites at a time when it had become enraged to a pitch of violent action. Tear bombs were used to disperse a crowd which had succeeded in advancing to the stairway in the City Hall leading

to the jail. Coffeyville troops quelled a miniature race riot. About twenty shots were fired. Three persons were reported wounded.

## BROOKLYN CITIZEN

MAR 19 1927

# MARTIAL LAW PREVAILS IN KANSAS TOWN

## Mob Attacks City Hall in Ef- fort to Lynch a Negro

## FIGHT LASTED ALL NIGHT

## Negroes Arrested in Connection With Assaults on Two White Girls

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Three persons were reported to have been wounded during the turbulent night. All the windows in the City Hall were smashed, and tear bombs were used to fight the mob when it forced its way to a stairway inside the City Hall leading to the jail on an upper floor.

Shortly after midnight the crowd began to disperse. Sheriff's deputies and troopers from the local cavalry unit still patrolled the streets to guard against recurrence of rioting.

Negro residents kept out of sight through most of the night, but a group appeared at one time across the street from the City Hall and clashed with members of the white mob. A score of shots were fired before troops broke up the fight.

The crowd gathered around the jail early in the evening after Smith and two other negroes were arrested in connection with assaults on Margaret Akers and Julia Mooney. Both girls were attacked in their homes while their parents were away.

Bloodhounds led police and deputies to the three negroes. Two were released after questioning, but Smith was held. He denied he was involved in the assaults.

Sheriff W. D. McCrabb and his deputies, assisted by police, kept guard at the combined City Hall and jail as the crowd grew and became more restive. Later he called on Captain G. W. Noel, Commander of the Coffeyville Cavalry unit of the National Guard, for aid. Only thirty-two members of the cavalry unit reported for duty. Sheriff McCrabb deputized all available citizens and appealed to Governor Paulen for more troops. A detachment was sent from Yates Centre in motor cars, while Troop B. of the 117th Cavalry, National Guard, was being mobilized at Independence to entrain for Coffeyville.

Shortly afterward martial law was proclaimed on orders from the State Adjutant-General's office. The clamoring crowd quieted somewhat when Captain Noel read the proclamation, and some members drifted away.

Automobiles were running wild throughout the little city. A hardware store was broken into and all its guns and ammunition appropriated by the mob. Three persons were arrested.

R. C. Walden, foreman of the Acme Tank Car Company, was taken to a hospital with a dislocated shoulder after one of the numerous minor clashes that marked the night. Thomas Waddle, 17, was reported to have been shot in the hand and legs. A third man, whose name could not be learned, was said to have been injured.

The mob gradually dispersed as dawn approached, but troops and deputies remained on guard, fearing a new attack this morning.

## BANNER NASHVILLE, TENN.

MAR 20 1927

## KANSAS AND MOBS.

Confronted with the necessity of dealing with a howling mob, Coffeyville and the state of Kansas have demonstrated their understanding of the way in which such a situation should be met. Several hundred enraged men and boys had gathered before the jail at Coffeyville in search of three Negroes who had been accused of a most serious offense. Investigation had proved that two of the Negroes were obviously innocent and they had been released. The third, who was being held for further questioning, was quickly and courageously smuggled out of reach of the

mob, and the officers exposed themselves to considerable danger in so doing. In the meantime, attacks on its senseless rage by an attack on means were necessary.

After the mob found itself unable to gain entrance to the jail, it vented the jail were repulsed by whatever the Negro quarter of the town, and apparently only good fortune there prevented a major tragedy. State officials had been notified and sent national guard units to Coffeyville to establish martial law or its equivalent and enforce regard for the law and insure orderly conduct of further investigations of the crime that originally precipitated the outbreak. Beyond question, Kansas has adopted the only acceptable method of dealing with mobs. They are lost to reason, or else they would not be mobs. No doubt even more serious and deplorable developments have been obviated.

It does not stand to the credit of any community that a mob should form in it in the first place, but it is a tribute to it that the better elements of society should also assert themselves and see to it that the law prevails. Kansas has set the rest of the country an excellent example. It requires nothing more or less than such determined demonstrations of insistence on the law being allowed to take its course to quell mobs and the mob spirit.

Discrimination - 1927



Riots-1927

## More Querries Embryo Race Riot

COLORED AND WHITE BOYS  
STAGE MORNING FIGHTS  
IN WEST END

Chief of Police Promises to Keep  
Officers on Scene

Mr. I. Willis Cole, perhaps, is responsible for maintaining peace and order and saving bloodshed and trouble around 17th and 18th and Chestnut streets. Driving through that section Thursday morning Mr. Cole saw nearly 100 boys—white and Colored—fighting with bricks and stones as missiles, not only endangering their own persons but the lives of passersby and residents of the neighborhood. The white boys were from the school on Madison between 17th and 18th and the Colored boys were from the Western school, 16th and Magazine.

Mr. Cole stopped the boys and appealed to their reason and got them to agree to stop further hostilities, although the whites claimed the Colored were at fault and the Colored, the whites. Mr. Cole then visited the white school where the woman principal thanked him for his service and lectured her boys. Mr. Perry, principal of the Western School also thanked Mr. Cole and promised to try to keep down further trouble.

Thursday evening Mr. Cole, accompanied by William arley, called on Col. Easley, Chief of Police and told him the situation.

Col. Easley promised to have officers in the neighborhood to check these boyish fights that can easily grow into something serious.

Kentucky

Riots-1927

## NEAR RACE RIOT IS HAD IN BOSTON, MASS.

BOSTON, Mass., Aug. 10.—A disturbance which threatened to develop into a small race riot near Hancock and Green streets, Cambridge, Monday night, was quelled by prompt action of police who arrested five white youth alleged ringleaders of a gang which had invaded the colored district armed, with fence pickets, brick bats and clubs, to avenge the stabbing of one of their friends Saturday night in an altercation.

Five motor car loads of reserves reached the scene of disturbance and dispersed the crowd of 100 or more colored and white persons who had gathered and were on the point of a break.

## CAMBRIDGE HAS RACE CLASH

Cambridge, Mass., Aug. 10.—(By A. N. P.)—James J. Hayes, 17, a white youth of 140 Pine street, was seriously wounded with a ice pick last Saturday night when more than 150 colored and as many white men and boys clashed at Cambridge port for several hours. Many others of both sides received scalp wounds and minor injuries during the melee.

The fight started when a dozen or more white youths set upon two colored ice peddlers who used their picks freely.

The peddlers fled from the district after the encounter which took place at Green and Hancock street at 9:30 o'clock, but within a short time a crowd of 150 colored men armed with fence pickets trooped through the streets in the district on the lookout for their white opponents.

There was an increase in the ranks of the white men and clashes became frequent, in which the men fought it out until separated and driven away by policemen. There were no arrests made.

Massachusetts.

Riots-1927  
N.Y. TIMES

SEP 12 1927

## 23 INJURED IN RACE RIOT.

Berlin (Md.) Negroes and Whites  
Battle for Three Hours.

Special to The New York Times.

BERLIN, Md., Sept. 11.—A race riot in which 300 whites and negroes participated raged for three hours here this morning and resulted in injuries to twenty-two negroes, three of whom were hurt seriously.

The clash started after Thorton Showell, a negro, had been fined \$10 for assault upon Theodore Merritt, a mechanic, in a street brawl. After the trial, which was attended by a crowd, somebody hurled a brick and the riot started.

The outbreak is the second one of a serious nature in this city in seven years. The population of Berlin is composed of about 1,100 whites and 90 negroes.

Maryland



Riots-1927

New Jersey

# Mob's Rage Gives Town New Church

Stone Laid for Congregation,  
Whose Church Was Burned.

Cartaret, N. J., May 30.—Ex-  
actly one year to the day, after  
a mob had burned to the ground  
the First Baptist church, the Rev.  
George H. Reed, pastor, laid the  
cornerstone of a new edifice last  
Sunday that will be at least four  
times as large as the old one, far  
better in construction, and locat-  
ed on more valuable ground.

The cornerstone ceremonies be-  
gan with a parade led by Exalted  
Ruler Harry Simmons of Superior  
Lodge No. 215, I. B. P. O. E. of  
W., and his staff, together with  
the members of Superior Lodge of  
New Burnswick and the lodge  
band. *East Tennessee*  
*People of Cartaret Applaud.*

Where the people of Cartaret  
one year ago were inflamed  
against Negroes and were chasing  
them from the streets, last Sun-  
day they stood on the sidewalks  
and applauded a long line of color-  
ed paraders as they passed through  
the principal streets of the city.  
In addition to the Elks, the uni-  
formed rank, K. of P., and the  
Masons also marched. A platoon  
of city police formed an escort.

At the new edifice a platform  
had been erected and upon it to  
review the paraders as they passed  
were the Mayor of Cartaret,  
Thomas Mulvihill, Councilman  
Frank Andres, and the Reverends  
C. A. Law, pastor of the First Bap-  
tist church of Rahway, and W. A.  
Atchley, pastor of the First Bap-  
tist church of Perth Amboy.

Mayor Mulvihill in his remarks  
said that this was a fitting sequel  
to an unfortunate happening, and  
that he was glad the spirit "of  
true Americanism prevailed in the  
state of New Jersey, as was  
demonstrated today."

He said that the Negroes' true

Christianity was shown in their  
erection of a church bigger and  
better than the one which had  
been so wantonly destroyed, and  
he congratulated the pastor for  
his determination to stick and re-  
build after his very life had been  
threatened. "Truly," said the  
mayor, "this means a new era in  
this city for colored people, and a  
far better one, too."

Atty. Leroy Jordan, district  
deputy for Northern New Jersey  
of the I. B. P. O. E. of W., an-  
swered the mayor's remarks with  
a brilliant address. John D. Rob-  
inson of the Foresters of Cartaret  
and John Collins of the Odd Fel-  
lows, also spoke. The congrega-  
tion still needs \$3,000 to complete  
the church structure, and a com-  
mittee of prominent white people  
of Cartaret has been formed to  
raise the necessary money among  
the merchants of that city.



# THREE HURT IN CHATTANOOGA RACE RIOT

Police With Machine Guns  
Seek To Halt Meetings Of  
Garvey Asso. There

U. N. I. A. URGING  
WORKERS TO LEAVE

Leaders Arm, Move Across  
State Line And Defiantly  
Hold Meetings

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.,  
(By An Afro Staff Corres-  
pondent)—A race riot  
which for a time threatened  
to end in a bloody battle  
and in which one white po-  
lice officer was shot and  
two members of the U. N.  
I. A. seriously wounded,  
was staged here Thursday.

The raid the police depart-  
ment declare was ordered because  
the U. N. I. A. was disseminating  
"Red" literature and arming mem-  
bers to resist the government. Local  
citizens declare it was staged to halt  
efforts of the organization to cause  
laborers to leave the south.

## Refused Permit

Four weeks ago the U. N. I. A. was  
refused a permit to hold a public  
meeting, whereupon they confined  
their meetings to their headquarters.  
Wild reports of "radicalism" reach-  
ed police headquarters, and efforts  
to buy army uniforms, a quantity of  
rifles, caused police to raid the place.  
Under the command of Captain  
Hyatt a squad of white police enter-  
ed the hall where they were met by  
a sentinel who commanded them to  
halt. When they informed him that  
they were officers he still refused to  
allow their admittance, whereupon  
Captain Hyatt kicked out the lights  
and shooting commenced.

When the riot was quelled, police-  
man Kline had a bullet in his leg  
and James Jackson and Ira Johnson,  
members of the U. N. I. A., had re-  
ceived gunshot wounds from which  
they may die.

## Use Machine Guns

Immediately the whole police de-  
partment became active and police  
with riot and machine guns patrol-  
led the streets and began a whole-  
sale search for firearms. This search  
reached the residential section where  
officers are said to have entered pri-  
vate homes taking such arms as  
they found there.

Although Milton Maynard, said to  
head the U. N. I. A., and for whom  
a city-wide search is being made, has  
not been apprehended, many arrests  
have been made, and books and lit-  
erature of the organization have  
been seized by the police.

## 700 Strong

The Chattanooga unit of the Gar-  
vey organization is said to have  
more than 700 members well sup-  
plied with funds. Police declare they  
have available hundreds of thous-  
ands of dollars with which to dis-  
seminate "red" propaganda in the  
south. A local dealer reported that  
they had attempted to purchase 200  
high powered repeating rifles and  
that they had adopted a military  
uniform similar to that worn by U.  
S. soldiers.

That leaders of the organization  
do not propose to relinquish their  
hold on their members is borne out  
by the fact that dozens of meetings  
in defiance of the police have been  
held.

## General Dissatisfaction

An Afro-American staff represent-  
ative found that while leading group  
leaders in Chattanooga do not sub-  
scribe to the Garvey movement nor  
some of its methods of procedure,  
all agree that there is widespread  
dissatisfaction in that section.

## No Red Propaganda

Most of them discount the "red"  
propaganda stories, and say it is a  
subterfuge the police department is  
using to break up an organization  
which may drive labor from that  
section by agitating injustices.

They say jim-crowism, disfran-  
chisement and injustice are still ram-  
pant and that such organizations as  
the U. N. I. A. find rich soil for ap-  
pealing to a downtrodden group.

## Jim-Crow De Luxe

On the Memphis Special, Dixie's  
deluxe jim-crow train, the Afro cor-  
respondent heard many complaints  
from the race passengers crowded in-  
to a small compartment with the  
news butcher and conductor, not-  
withstanding the fact they were  
charged full first-class fare.

Pulling out from Morristown, Ten-  
nessee, an old gentleman boarded  
the train and after taking his seat,  
remarked, "Is this the way I have to  
ride after paying first-class fare?"



Riots - 1927.

Washington.

# RACE RIOT HITS WASH.

## Ugly Fight Is Staged When Filipino Celebrant Of- fends White Man

SEATTLE, Wash., Jan. 5—(Spec-  
ial)—Possibility of further racial  
clashes loomed here Saturday as the  
outgrowth of a spirited engagement  
shortly after the new year arrived  
in which Filipinos and white men  
battled. Seven whites were taken to  
hospitals, suffering from painful  
knife wounds. Six Filipinos were  
arrested.

More than 200 New Year revelers  
participated in the pitched battle,  
when a Filipino celebrant struck a  
white man with a tin horn.

The white man promptly knocked  
the horn wielder into the street.  
Other Filipinos drew daggers, hunt-  
ing knives and brass knuckles and  
started striking promiscuously at  
every one near.

The whites far outnumbered the  
foreign party and in a few minutes  
the Filipinos were in the center of  
of an angry mob which threatened  
lynching and other violence. It took  
a battalion of police reserves to  
break through the crowds and res-  
cue the Filipinos, who went willing-  
ly to jail.



Riots - 1937

Historical

## First of Riots Against Negroes in Columbia Broke Out Aug. 11, 1834

BY FREDERIC A. GODCHARLES.

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The first of a series of riots against the Negroes in Columbia, Lancaster county, broke out August 11, 1834.

The trouble with the colored population of this place was occasioned by the great number of fugitives from human bondage who had sought freedom in flight, and the greater number of whom had located in Columbia.

The first Negroes to locate there were the manumitted slaves of Israel Bacon and others, of Virginia, who arrived in 1818 and 1819. From this first settlement the numbers were constantly increased until the number of fugitive slaves was more than a thousand. These Negroes did all the labor for the lumber merchants along the river during the most profitable and busy seasons of the year. This excited the envy and hatred of not a few of the white inhabitants.

The most prominent of these negroes was Stephen Smith, who was born a slave in Paxtang, and was purchased, until he arrived at the age of twenty-eight years, by General Thomas Boude, in 1802. Stephen was a bright and intelligent boy, and soon developed a business talent not easily checked in an ambitious youth.

Before he was nineteen years of age General Boude gave him entire management of his large lumber yard. In the same year he was clandestinely married to a pretty mulatto girl, who was a servant in the house of Jonathan Mifflin.

Stephen proposed to General Boude to purchase the remainder of his servitude, and the latter gentleman agreed to take one hundred dollars. Smith procured that sum from John Barber, purchased his freedom, and began a most successful business career.

With the limited capital of only fifty dollars, which he had saved by doing extra work, he commenced to buy lumber and speculate in every sort of a venture. He was so successful that in a short time he owned one of the largest lumber-yards along the shore, and was a large holder of valuable real estate.

In the height of his prosperity, in 1834, he was served with a notice which warned him of the hatred the white citizens entertained for him, that his real estate dealings were objectionable and that

he had injured the property value in Columbia; he was warned to leave the place. To this warning, signed "Many," Smith paid but little attention. Three of the leading citizens, James, William and John L. Wright, promptly offered a reward for the detection of the authors of this notice.

In the spring of 1834 there had been a number of riots in several cities in the Northern States against the colored people. Excitement ran high everywhere.

The mob spirit gained the upper hand in Columbia, August 11, 1834, when some persons broke into Smith's office and destroyed his books and papers, and gave him another warning to leave the town. This was a great personal loss to him, but one he could bear. He stood up manfully for his rights, and never, for a moment, quailed before the men he knew were inciting the mob against him.

On the 16th and the two succeeding days, a mob drove the negroes from their homes and destroyed much of their property. The poor victims fled to the hills surrounding the town and to Beth-el's woods for safety, where they remained several days without shelter or food.

David Miller, high sheriff, summoned a posse and arrested a number of persons concerned in the riots. They were brought to trial, but none were convicted or sent to prison.

Stephen Smith removed his family to Philadelphia in 1842, where he engaged in business. He also retained his lumber interests in Columbia. He gave William Whipple, a negro of Columbia, an interest in the local lumber-yard.

### Today's Anniversaries

1731—George Bryan born in Dublin, Ireland. President of Pennsylvania and eminent statesman. Died in Philadelphia, January 27, 1791.

1732—Thomas Penn arrived at Chester.

1738—John Bayard born in Maryland. Patriot; speaker in Assembly. Died January 7, 1807.

1779—Colonel Daniel Brodhead marched from Fort Pitt on his expedition up the Allegheny river, in the Sullivan campaign vs. Six Nations.

1828—Weavers riot in Kensington.

1837—Archibald L. Snowden born in Cumberland county. Soldier; diplomat; director of U. S. Mint. Died September 9, 1912.

1844—H. A. Muhlenberg died suddenly while he was campaigning for the governorship.

1848—Beaver furnace at Paxtonville blown in; operated until 1866.

1852—National convention Free Soil Party in Pittsburgh.

1861—Charles A. Rook born in Pittsburgh. Eminent journalist and citizen.

1865—Gifford Pinchot born in Connecticut. Forester; Governor of Pennsylvania, 1923 to 27.

1875—Fatal riot perpetrated in Shenandoah by Mollie Maguires.

1914—Home for Feeble Minded Women located near Laurelton, Union county.

1923—One killed and another wounded in Germany in attempt to kidnap Grover C. Bergdoll, of Philadelphia, the draft invader.

## RACES CLASH IN PHILLY; 9 HURT

PHILADELPHIA, PA., Nov. 2—Four colored men and five Caucasians were injured in a race clash which occurred at 7 o'clock Sunday night in the vicinity of Waterloo street near Cumberland avenue. One of the Caucasians is not expected to live.

The trouble is said to have started when an unidentified Caucasian, under the influence of liquor, attempted to take possession of a colored citizen's front porch. Objecting to the vile language the stranger was using, the resident put the drunk off his premises.

Witnessing the ejection, a gang of toughs set upon the resident. Other neighbors came to the assistance of the lone man and a general fight followed. Knives, brass knuckles and clubs were used freely in the fray. The disturbance lasted nearly an hour and was quelled only by the arrival of police reserves in response to a riot call.

Twelve of the rioters were arrested, ten of them being colored.